



Department of

**Justice**

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Mánnystrie O tha Laa

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**FROM: HUGH WIDDIS  
PERMANENT SECRETARY, DOJ**

**DATE: 8 DECEMBER 2025**

**TO: ED HUMPHERSON  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OFFICE FOR STATISTICS  
REGULATION**

## **TRANSPARENCY AND A REFRESHED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS**

Thank you for your letter, received by the Department on 19 November 2025, detailing your expectations on the appropriate use of statistics and the support available from the UK Statistics Authority including the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).

I note that Penny Young, as chair of the UK Statistics Authority has also written to the Minister of Justice in this respect. I should like to take this opportunity to also welcome the Authority's third edition of the Code of Practice along with the Intelligent transparency 2025 review and the recommendations within it. My departmental officials and I are content to continue our support for the UK Statistics Authority in maintaining public confidence in the trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics produced and used by the department.

The statisticians in my Department are already well engaged with colleagues in OSR, quality assuring our publications, working in collaboration to learn lessons, meeting regularly and availing of relevant learning opportunities signposted by OSR colleagues.

The Minister, my senior officials and I, all recognise the important role that statistics and data have in both supporting policy and evidence development and keeping the public



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informed. In this context, I am also content to provide my support and commitment to ensuring that our information is produced and communicated in a way that serves the public good.

I note that you have copied this letter to all Permanent Secretaries, I welcome this collective approach as this is something which I believe will benefit from collaboration with OSR and with our colleagues across the Northern Ireland Civil Service. In this respect, my officials are engaging with their colleagues across the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on the Code of Practice generally, but also, on the specific issue of intelligent transparency.

I welcome the continued engagement of you, your staff and of the wider UK Statistics Authority in ensuring that we are supported in this valuable work.

Your sincerely,

**HUGH WIDDIS**