

**From the Minister of Finance**

*Penny Young  
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(via email)*

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Penny, a chara

**RE: TRANSPARENCY AND A REFRESHED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS**

Thank you for your letter of 19 November highlighting the importance of Intelligent Transparency in government communications - using statistics, data and other types of analysis in an open, clear and accessible way. I note the publication of OSR's Intelligent Transparency: 2025 Review, and the inclusion of Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis in the Code of Practice for Statistics.

I recognise the importance of using statistics, data and other analysis in a way that supports public confidence and demonstrates transparency. This includes ensuring that quoted figures and analysis are already in the public domain; that statistics and other figures are presented clearly and accurately, and that they must not mislead. I also recognise the importance of ensuring that the relevant statistician's advice is sought and heeded. To support these objectives, I will ensure that officials within my Department are aware of and uphold the principles of Intelligent Transparency, and that they are embedded within my own and my Department's approach.

I will also ensure that officials are aware of the Code of Practice and the Standards for Official Statistics, and that these standards and practices are implemented and supported, so that the official statistics, and accredited official statistics, produced by my Department are trustworthy, high quality and valuable.

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**JOHN O'DOWD MLA  
MINISTER OF FINANCE**