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Ed Humpherson
Director General
Office for Statistics Regulation
Via email: DG.Regulation@Statistics.gov.uk

Our Ref: SCORR-0227-2025

4 December 2025

Dear Ed

INTELLIGENT TRANSPARENCY REVIEW AND A REFRESHED CODE OF PRACTICE

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2025, sharing OSR's Intelligent Transparency: 2025 Review and advising of the launch of the third edition of the Code of Practice for Statistics.

I note the inclusion of the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis in this edition of the Code. These extend beyond the reach of official statistics and impact all those involved in the communication of statistics data and analysis. I will ensure that these requirements are cascaded to officials within my department, and that we embed the requirements of the Code of Practice and principles of Intelligent Transparency within our working practices.

You highlight a number of areas in your letter where more could be done to ensure that Intelligent Transparency is the default approach: in particular, regarding citing sources and raising awareness across professions. I am committed to working with officials in NISRA and elsewhere in the department to address these issues and take forward implementing the recommendations of the review.

I recognise the importance of producing official statistics (and accredited official statistics) that are high-quality, valuable in providing insight and shaping action, and can be trusted. I also appreciate that supporting public confidence extends beyond official statistics, and that all statistics, data and wider analysis need to be communicated in a way that is transparent, promotes equality of access, supports understanding and ensures that the best data is used. NISRA officials have my full support as they take forward plans to implement the requirements of the Code and champion Intelligent Transparency.

I thank you for your offer of support and know that my colleagues in NISRA will take you up on this offer.

Yours sincerely



NEIL GIBSON