

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Penny Young
Deputy Chair, UK Statistics Authority

Via email: chair@statistics.gov.uk

8 December 2025

Dear Penny,

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 welcome Authority's third edition of the Code of Practice along with the Intelligent transparency 2025 review and the recommendations within it and I am fully behind 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, meeting regularly and availing of relevant learning opportunities.

I recognise the significant value that statistics and data have in both supporting policy and evidence development and keeping the public informed. In this context, I am content to provide my support and commitment to ensuring that this information is produced and communicated in a way that serves the public good.

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Furthermore, in specific reference to recommendation 4 and specifically that we should publish a statement of compliance on intelligent transparency. Your suggestions on what this should cover are welcome and I have asked my officials to engage with their colleagues in the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to ensure that any such commitment is, where possible, a consistent and strategically relevant message across NISRA and other related publications in my Department.

Thank you for your engagement on this matter.

Yours sincerely



NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

Please ensure that you quote our reference number in any future related correspondence.