



Penny Young
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Our Reference: 202500494681
Your Reference: Code of Practice for Statistics

4 December 2025

Dear Penny Young,

Thank you for writing to the Minister regarding the refreshed Code of Practice and the Intelligent Transparency Review. I am replying as the Head of Profession for Statistics and lead official from the Office of the Chief Statistician in the Scottish Government (OCS), on behalf of the Minister.

The Code of Practice makes clear the importance of official statistics in serving the public good, and the inclusion of the Standards for Public Use of statistics in the Code is helpful in our efforts to achieve this. We welcome the Intelligent Transparency Review and we recognise it is an useful opportunity to reinforce the Intelligent transparency principles with all professions in Scottish Government and agencies, especially ahead of the Scottish Parliament election.

OCS have led on a number of initiatives which make statistics, data and wider analysis used in the public domain, available to everyone in a timely way. These include:

- Ongoing work to ensure that our statistical publications focus on user engagement, providing more engaging content, consistency and trust, and accessibility.
- Establishing 'intelligent transparency champions' to promote principles of intelligent transparency across the organisation.
- Developing guidance materials for non-analysts in Scottish Government to support them to work with official statistics.
- Working with policy and communications professions across SG to embed good practice in internal processes.
- Developing internal guidance for analysts to empower them promote intelligent transparency across the organisation, to support analytical leadership, and to monitor and address the misuse of statistics.

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We will continue to promote the principle that our statistical decision making remains free from political interference and, is produced in accordance with the public good, to drive trust in government statistics. We acknowledge that the review identifies development areas where more efforts need to be expended. We will work towards implementing the relevant recommendations of this review in pursuit of improving intelligent transparency across the organisation.

As with all such new initiatives, we shall be closely monitoring their impact. Thank you for writing to the Minister on this important topic.

Yours sincerely

Paul Matthews

OCS : STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT, POLICY AND PEOPLE

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