

Assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

Motoring Offence Statistics

(produced by Police Service of Northern Ireland)

Office for Statistics Regulation

We provide independent regulation of all official statistics produced in the UK. Statistics are an essential public asset. We aim to enhance public confidence in the trustworthiness, quality and value of statistics produced by government.

We do this by setting the standards they must meet in the *Code of Practice for Statistics*. We ensure that producers of government statistics uphold these standards by conducting assessments against the *Code*. Those which meet the standards are given National Statistics status, indicating that they meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and value. We also report publicly on system-wide issues and on the way statistics are being used, celebrating when the standards are upheld and challenging publicly when they are not.

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Executive Summary

Judgement on National Statistics Status

- ES.1 The statistics provide relevant, trusted information about motoring offences in Northern Ireland, with a good overview of the main trends. They enable users to better understand road safety in Northern Ireland and to develop policies that aim to improve it.
- ES.2 We have identified four actions for the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to address in order for the statistics to meet the highest standards of the Code of Practice for Statistics and to achieve National Statistics Status. These will further enhance the public value and trustworthiness of the statistics, as described in chapters one to three of this report.
- ES.3 Once the statistics team demonstrates that these steps have been undertaken OSR will recommend that the Statistics Authority designate the statistics as National Statistics.

Key Findings

Public Value

- ES.4 Motoring offence statistics are the main source of information used in Northern Ireland for monitoring the number of drivers and pedestrians detected for a motoring offence. The information produced and published by the PSNI statistics team is used extensively within PSNI, by government departments, the Northern Ireland Policing Board, as well as by those involved in local community policing, the media, academia, charities and the public.
- ES.5 Our user engagement confirmed that users are happy with the published statistics. Users of the statistics, especially those the statistics team works with on a regular basis, are also extremely complimentary about the statistics team and how it engages with questions and or requests for additional analysis. This amplifies the value of the statistics.
- ES.6 We have heard several examples of how the statistics team has worked collaboratively with users within and outside of government to answer questions that required an evolution of the data collected or using the data in a new way.
- ES.7 While we are impressed by the statistics that PSNI produces, and by the way the team works with users, we have identified several ways that we feel the statistics could be strengthened further.
- ES.8 First, the statistics team receives many requests for additional/bespoke analysis from individual users of the statistics. We consider that it would potentially be valuable to a wider user base, as well as being more efficient for the statistics team, for the team to review these additional analysis requests, with a view to developing published statistics to pre-emptively meet these needs.
- ES.9 Second, the value and insight of the statistical bulletins should be improved by providing more information on related statistics, most notably the Road Traffic Collision Statistics produced by PSNI, but also statistics that could add to the statistical commentary and help users to understand changes in the numbers of motoring offences.
- ES.10 Third, while all the users we spoke to said the presentation of the statistics in the published bulletins is good, some feedback highlighted that the statistics team could be more innovative in how it presents the data. In particular, maps that show the location of motoring offences would be of value to users. We were pleased to hear the team is already considering this and look forward to seeing the outcomes.
- ES.11 Finally, the team could do more to proactively identify and push the statistics out to wider groups that it could engage with and get value from; including road safety charities, lobby groups and academics.

Quality

- ES.12 The PSNI statistics team shows a strong, ongoing commitment to ensuring that the Motoring Offence Statistics are of high quality.
- ES.13 The statistics fit their intended uses and are based on appropriate data and methods. The statistics team makes considered, sound judgements about collecting, preparing, analysing and publishing statistics and data in ways that meet the needs of people who want to use the statistics.
- ES.14 The in-depth user guide and Quality Assurance of Administrative Data (QAAD) report produced by the statistics team and published alongside the Motoring Offence Statistics are both helpful and thorough. They explain clearly how the statistics team assures itself that statistics and data are accurate, reliable, coherent and timely.
- ES.15 Users are confident that the statistics are of high quality: accurate and presented with helpful caveats that explain the data and how they can be used.

Trustworthiness

- ES.16 The PSNI statistics team is well led, well managed and open, and the people who work in the team are skilled in what they do.
- ES.17 The statistics are produced independently and released in an orderly manner. There is no pre-release access for these statistics.
- ES.18 To enhance transparency, PSNI should publish a development plan for the statistics that covers both short and mid-to-long-term developments. This will keep users informed of planned changes, give them the opportunity to shape developments, and allow them to monitor progress against the plan.

Next Steps

- ES.19 PSNI should aim to meet the Requirements described in Tables 1 and 3 of this report by February 2020.
- ES.20 Once PSNI reports back to OSR on how it has met the Requirements within this report, the UK Statistics Authority will take advice from OSR and decide whether to award the National Statistics designation. We expect to have a decision before the next annual publication of the Motoring Offence Statistics in March 2020.

Chapter 1: Public Value

Introduction

- 1.1 Value means that the statistics and other numerical information are accessible, remain relevant and benefit society; helping the public to understand important issues and answer key questions.
- 1.2 Value is a product of the interface between the statistics or other numerical information and those who use them as a basis for forming judgements.

Overall judgement

- 1.3 The PSNI statistics team produces relevant statistics about motoring offences in Northern Ireland, which help inform decisions around road safety made by their users. The information produced and published by the statistics team is used extensively within PSNI, by government departments, the Northern Ireland Policing Board, as well as by those involved in local community policing, the media, academia, charities and the public.
- 1.4 To ensure that the statistics fulfil the expectations of the Code, the statistics team should focus on: pre-emptively meeting the additional data and analysis needs of those using the statistics; increasing the value and insight offered by the statistics through linking to other statistics that could help explain trends; and extending the reach of the statistics by trying to broaden their user engagement.

Findings

Relevance to users

- 1.5 The statistics team maintains and refreshes its understanding of the use of the statistics and data through a user survey, which is issued every two years, and through regular, direct contact with key users within PSNI and government departments. In addition, the team has a user list to whom it provides updates about the statistics, and the team uses social media to announce publications. The results of user engagement conducted by the statistics team (through a user survey) in 2018 showed that users are very happy with the content, presentation, commentary, timeliness, format, accessibility and overall data quality of the statistics.
- 1.6 Having a contact email on the publication and on the PSNI statistics web page enables users less well known/unknown to the team to get in touch if the statistics are not meeting their needs. PSNI's policy in relation to customer service and user engagement is available in the [PSNI Statistics Branch official statistics documentation](#) and highlights aims and standards for dealing with key users and requests from members of the public.
- 1.7 During our user engagement for this assessment, users said they were very satisfied with the statistics provided: those users who had specific requests that go beyond the published statistics were keen to impress that the statistics team is amenable to these and deals with them efficiently and effectively.
- 1.8 Currently, the statistics team receives many requests for additional/bespoke analysis from individual users of the statistics. For example, the team told us that many of the requests that it fulfils relate to motoring offences at a specific location. We consider that it would potentially be valuable to a wider user base, as well as being more efficient for the statistics team, for the team to review these additional analysis requests, with a view to developing published statistics to pre-emptively meet these needs. In relation to the requests for data about specific locations, the team could consider whether it can publish an interactive

dashboard that contains data at this level of granularity, which users can search themselves.

- 1.9 Finally, while the team clearly engages very well with known users, and it has demonstrated to us that it is open to helping and collaborating with new users who make themselves known, we feel the team could do more to proactively identify new and or potential users; for example, road safety charities, lobby groups and academics. To meet this requirement the team could consider contacting individuals who are tweeting/retweeting/writing about/referencing their statistics online, or who participate in policy consultations related to road safety.

Accessibility

- 1.10 The Motoring Offence Statistics are easily accessible. The statistics are pre-announced in the 12-month publication calendar provided on the main PSNI statistics page, and in the GOV.UK statistical release calendar.
- 1.11 The statistics are easy to find and to navigate to from PSNI homepage, along with related guidance. None of the users we spoke to had had trouble accessing the statistics. In addition, the team emails known users when new statistics are published, with a link to them.
- 1.12 The statistics team publishes information in a range of formats including Excel and Open Document Spreadsheets to maximise access and promote reuse. The team also provides open data (via OpenDataNI) once a year that is disaggregated to offence level with location disaggregated to district level.

Clarity and insight

- 1.13 The commentary throughout the statistical bulletins is impartial and clear. The main statistical messages, including trends in the data, are drawn out alongside supporting tables and charts, and almost all users we spoke to find the statistics presented and the explanatory material to be relevant and insightful.
- 1.14 While the bulletins contain links to comparable statistics on motoring offences produced for England, Wales and the Republic of Ireland, we consider that the value and insight of the statistical bulletins could be improved. Currently, the published statistics do not refer to other related statistics produced by PSNI or additional organisations – most notably the Road Traffic Collision Statistics produced by PSNI – but there may also be other statistics that would help users to understand changes in the numbers of motoring offences, such as police workforce numbers, for example. Therefore, to improve the value of the statistics and to enhance user insight, we require PSNI to discuss or link to relevant statistics in its statistical bulletins.
- 1.15 Finally, while this is not a requirement, we recommend that the statistics team considers how it can be more innovative in its presentation of the statistics, with a view to adding value for users and making the published statistics more insightful. For example, while all the users we spoke to said the presentation of the statistics in the published bulletins is good, some feedback highlighted that maps showing the distribution of motoring offences would be of value. We were pleased to hear the team is already considering this and look forward to seeing the outcomes.

Innovation and improvement

- 1.16 Our discussions with the statistics team assured us of its motivation and focus on improving the data and statistics it produces. We commend the work the team has already done with academics and policy colleagues in the Northern Ireland government.
- 1.17 We heard several examples of how the statistics team has worked collaboratively with users to answer questions that required an evolution of the data collected or using the data in a new way. In one case, the team worked with academics at the University of Edinburgh to develop a new data set from existing statistics that would help assess the impact of

20mph zones in city centres. This work mainly drew on the Road Traffic Collision statistics, rather than the Motoring Offence Statistics, but still serves to illustrate the kind of work the team does. We support the team's attitude and approach and would encourage the team to continue to take, and make, these opportunities to deliver enhanced public value. Publishing information about the collaborations the team has been part of could make other users and potential users more aware of the possibilities, and lead to further positive developments.

Table 1: Value – Findings and Requirements

Findings	Examples	Requirement
The statistics team receives many requests for additional/bespoke analysis from individual users of the statistics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team received almost 40 queries in relation to the Motoring Offence Statistics between April and July 2019 - most of these required additional analyses. 	1 We consider that it would be valuable to a wider user base, as well as being more efficient for the statistics team, for the team to review these additional analysis requests, with a view to developing published statistics to pre-emptively meet these needs.
The statistics team is very open to helping and collaborating with new users when they make themselves known, but otherwise its engagement with wider groups that they could get value from, e.g. charities, lobby groups and academics, is limited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSNI does not currently engage in proactive activity to identify new users/potential users of the statistics. 	2 The statistics team should set out how it will do more to proactively identify currently unknown and or potential users of the statistics. This could include using tools like twitter to identify users and seeking to attract new users by publishing information about collaborative work they have done.
Currently, the published statistics do not include discussion of, or links to, other statistics produced by PSNI or additional organisations that could enhance user understanding of trends in motoring offences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several users told us that they use PSNI road traffic collisions statistics alongside the Motoring Offence Statistics, but these are not referred to in the publication. Two users said that it could be useful to see links to or discussion of statistics not produced by PSNI that could explain trends, such as police workforce numbers. 	3 To add value and insight, the team should discuss or link to relevant statistics in their statistical bulletins. This will help users to understand trends in the numbers of motoring offences.

Chapter 2: Quality

Introduction

- 2.1 Quality means that the statistics and numerical information represent the best available estimate of what they aim to measure at a particular point in time and are not materially misleading.
- 2.2 Quality is analytical in nature and is a product of the professional judgements made in the specification, collection, aggregation, processing, analysis, and dissemination of data.

Overall judgement

- 2.3 The statistics team has strong measures in place to ensure the quality of the Motoring Offence Statistics. The published [user guide](#) and [Quality Assurance of Administrative Data \(QAAD\) report](#) clearly set out potential issues with the data and production process and the actions in place to mitigate them. The team has a strong working relationship with its data suppliers and able to contact the data processing centre to query any problems with the data, such as missing values, which could affect the statistics. This strong working relationship allows the statistics team to request changes to the data it receives easily, which in turn allows the team to continue to provide analysis when there are policy changes or when new areas of interest arise.

Findings

- 2.4 The PSNI statistics team seeks to ensure the quality of their statistics through the application of the principles of the Code. In line with the expectations of OSR for producers using administrative data, the team has produced a QAAD report and have given the statistics an A1/A2 risk score. This reflects the team's judgement that the level of risk of quality concern with the data is low (because of the way it is collected and processed), and that the public interest in the data is high. The team has provided enough detail about how the statistics are produced to justify this risk score.
- 2.5 The Motoring Offence Statistics are based on management information, which is itself used to measure the performance of police officers in relation to administering motoring offences. Ensuring the data are of good quality is fundamental to their production. Data relating to Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) and Speed Awareness Courses (SAC) are collected using an administrative system called StarDome, which was created in December 2016. Previously, data on FPNs were extracted from a system called VPFPO, while SACs were recorded in the old StarTrak system. The move from collating FPNs and SACs, to the creation of a single data source allowed the team to improve and ensure the quality of data used in the statistics. Discretionary disposals issued (prior to these being discontinued in 2016) and those offences referred for prosecution are extracted from a second administrative database, the PSNI Occurrence Management System (NICHE).
- 2.6 The team highlights in the user guide that some of the data for FPNs still come from paper tickets that are completed by police officers and then forwarded to the Fixed Penalty Processing Centre (FPPC) for input onto police systems. At present, 35% of offences are recorded on paper tickets, although they continue to encourage electronic tickets as the default recording mechanism. Technology allowing police officers to record the information electronically at the scene of an offence, which is then transferred directly to PSNI systems, was first introduced in April 2012.
- 2.7 PSNI Information and Communication Services (ICS) write script, in consultation with the statistics team, to extract only the required information, from both StarDome and NICHE for

statistical processing. One of the suppliers we spoke to highlighted that they can contact the police officers and their senior managers if they suspect that information has been entered incorrectly; this process allows them to amend incorrect/missing information swiftly, and to ensure training takes place to prevent an incident occurring again.

- 2.8 Changes to the PSNI's systems or processes that might affect the quality of the statistics are discussed in advance between the ICS and the statistics team. The suppliers and the statistics team highlighted that communication takes place on a regular basis at many levels: this ensures that data quality is maintained. The statisticians have access to updated prosecutions data which can be extracted from the NICHE recording system on a weekly basis and updated FPN and SAC data is available daily from the StarDome system. Access to these extracts enables the statistics team to produce reports for publication and to respond to ad hoc requests for information. Automated processes ensure that the internal management information system and reports are updated each month following publication of the official statistics.
- 2.9 The team is open about the limitations of the data and clearly states the mitigations in place within the user guide, for example, technical issues with officer devices or tickets not received in the FPPC. Checks are in place to identify potentially missing FPNs. A full list of relevant offence codes, as provided by Road Policing branch, are extracted from NICHE, which are regularly reviewed for completeness, prior to the data being used for the statistics.
- 2.10 On a monthly and yearly basis, the statistics team undertakes a range of quality assurance checks on the fixed penalty notice and speed awareness offence data to ensure that the statistics produced are of high quality, accurate and meaningful. SPSS is used to identify missing or inaccurate data and those detections which are not in a final state. These are sent to FPPC administrative staff, who review the offence to complete the required information, contacting the issuing officer if necessary. FPPC then take appropriate action to move the offence to a final state so it can be included in the next monthly update of the PSNI's Motoring Offence Statistics.
- 2.11 All validations are completed on the source system so that the same errors are not returned in the next round of validations. SPSS syntax is used to automate extensive quality assurance and recategorisation of the prosecutions data. The syntax is applied and reviewed regularly to produce up-to-date and accurate datasets, with amendments made on the source system where possible.
- 2.12 The statistics team is transparent about any revisions that affect the data. The team includes a list of revisions in each monthly bulletin, highlighting size and impact of the revisions to the data.
- 2.13 The team was able to illustrate that it acts appropriately and transparently if it does uncover an issue with the data. When issues with the district-level data were discovered in 2012, the team removed this breakdown from the publications, explaining the absence of the information in the notes section of each publication from 2013. The information could not be reintroduced to the publication until 2017: during this period, district information was provided for specific information requests where necessary; however, the data quality issues were clearly explained and quantified if possible, on all responses. This approach illustrates the flexibility of the team, and its commitment to trying to ensure that users continued to get full value from the statistics. The team was able to work collaboratively with the ICS department to resolve the issue, although this took several years due to the installation of a new recording system during this period.
- 2.14 Collaborative working relationships also ensure that the team can influence the data collected by police officers in order to ensure it can provide necessary evidence to inform policy decisions. Recently a new variable was added to the system as a result of an issue raised by key users: there was a need to collect the alcohol reading against an alcohol offence. Once this change was incorporated into the NICHE IT system and the relevant forms were amended, the Police Inspector from Roads Policing Policy issued a directive to

all police officers explaining the change and the need for them to complete these details for all relevant offences in future.

- 2.15 The statistics team has not highlighted any reasons other than policy changes that would affect long-term trends in the statistics; the team illustrate in both the user guide and QAAD report that the impacts of policy changes are monitored to ensure trend consistency is maintained. Changes in how detections are dealt with over the years, which have caused large and or sudden changes in the numbers of different types of disposals between years are labelled on trend charts in the statistical bulletin.

Table 2: Quality – Findings and Requirements

Findings	Requirement
As outlined in the section above, the PSNI statistics team shows a strong, ongoing commitment to ensuring that the Motoring Offence statistics are of high quality.	We have no requirements relating to quality of the statistics.

Chapter 3: Trustworthiness

Introduction

- 3.1 Trustworthiness means that the statistics and other numerical information are produced free from vested interest, based on the best professional judgement of statisticians and other analysts.
- 3.2 Trustworthiness is a product of the people, systems and processes within organisations that enable and support the production of statistics and other numerical information.

Overall judgement

- 3.3 The statistics are a trusted source of information about motoring offences in Northern Ireland. The PSNI statistics team demonstrates good expertise and professional judgement; we have heard from users how the team engages professionally, works collaboratively and behaves responsibly with respect to the statistics and underlying data. The statistics team publishes a range of materials relating to key processes involved in the production of the statistics, which explain PSNI practices and policies relevant to each pillar of the Code of Practice.
- 3.4 To ensure transparency around the ongoing developments to the statistics, the team should publish a work plan on the PSNI statistics webpage.

Findings

- 3.5 The statistics team supports transparency through its openness about the motoring offence recording process, stating the reasons for producing the statistics in the user guide. The statistics provide PSNI with information on where to focus resource and are used to illustrate the impact of PSNI polices.
- 3.6 Department for Infrastructure (DfI), which is responsible for the implementation of road safety policy including the Road Safety Strategy to 2020, uses motoring offence statistics for several purposes including the identification of offences, offenders and vulnerable groups, in order to target road safety policies and media campaigns more effectively. Other government departments use the team's motoring offence statistics to help inform and develop policy, for example the Department of Health use drink drug driving figures to show the extent and cost of alcohol related crime in order to inform their alcohol and drug misuse policy.
- 3.7 The team has actively used the pillars of the code in the production of the Motoring Offence Statistics and requested this assessment. The QAAD report and user guide publications provide supplementary information about the data the statistics team is using and on its approach to user engagement. This illustrates that the team is thinking about how statistics fit into to the Code and where it can improve.
- 3.8 PSNI clearly states the process for releasing statistics and pre-announces all publications on the PSNI website and the gov.uk website. PSNI also has a clear corrections and revisions policy on its website, which is transparent about the procedures in place to deal with errors.
- 3.9 As documented in the [PSNI Official Statistics Documentation](#), PSNI is exempt from the requirement in the Code to provide the name of the responsible statistician for publications. This is a result of the ongoing security threat against police officers and staff within PSNI.
- 3.10 The statistics team has a business plan, which they shared with us. This plan highlights future changes to the statistics and a data developments log, which means the team

remains aware of what will impact their workload and the statistics. In the interests of ensuring the continued transparency of the statistics, the team should publish the work programme for the statistics on the statistics landing page. This will keep users informed of planned changes, give them the opportunity to shape developments, and allow them to monitor progress against the plan.

Table 3: Trustworthiness – Findings and Requirements

Findings	Examples	Requirement
To enhance transparency, PSNI should be more open about their development plans for the Motoring Offence Statistics in the short, medium- and longer-term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSNI has not published a work plan for the Motoring Offence Statistics 	4 PSNI should publish a work plan for the statistics that covers short, medium- and longer-term developments.

Annex 1: About the Statistics

The Statistics

- A1.1 The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) records information in relation to all motoring offences detected by the PSNI in Northern Ireland. Motoring offence statistics for Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the PSNI from the Northern Ireland and Statistics Research Agency (NISRA).
- A1.2 Depending on the offence or offences, detections will result in one of the following disposals – the issue of a fixed penalty notice (FPN), completion of a speed awareness course or a referral for prosecution. FPN statistics are available from 1998, with speed awareness courses offered and reported since 2010. In 2011, discretionary disposals became an option for low level offences before being discontinued for motoring offences in 2016. Statistics on those referred for prosecution for motoring offences were first reported in 2017 and are available from 2011 onwards.
- A1.3 The types of statistics collated and reported in relation to motoring offences in Northern Ireland include:
- Long-term trends in motoring offences
 - Types of offences detected
 - Motoring offences by geographical area
 - Age and gender breakdown of offenders
 - Analysis of specific offence groups
 - Analysis of each disposal type
- A1.4 This assessment considered the trustworthiness, quality and value of PSNI motoring offence statistics, which are currently published through several reports across the year:
- An annual motoring offence report published 12 weeks after the end of the calendar year;
 - Monthly motoring offence reports published eight weeks after the end of a given reporting period and providing provisional rolling 12 months data;
 - Reports that relate specifically to drink/drug driving.

Data Sources and Methods

- A1.5 The motoring offence statistics are collated using PSNI's own administrative and management systems. Most operational information relating to motoring offences is input to the organisation's central management information system by police officers and PSNI staff. Some of the data collation for Fixed Penalty Notices is still reliant on paper tickets being completed by police officers and then forwarded to the Fixed Penalty Processing Centre (FPPC) for input onto police systems. However, increasing use is being made of technology, allowing police officers to record the information electronically at the scene, which is then transferred directly to PSNI systems.
- A1.6 PSNI Information and Communication Services (ICS) write script, in consultation with the statistics team, in order to extract the information required for the motoring offence statistics from two PSNI management systems. The statistics team validates, collates and analyses the information before publishing them as Official Statistics.

Uses and Users

- A1.7 Motoring offence statistics are the main source of information used in Northern Ireland for monitoring the number of drivers and pedestrians detected for a motoring offence.
- A1.8 The information published in the motoring offence statistics is used extensively within PSNI, and by government departments, the Northern Ireland Policing Board, as well as by those involved in local community policing, the media, academia, charities and the public.
- A1.9 User engagement during this assessment; responses to the PSNI's statistics users survey; and information from the statistics team have identified the following uses of the motoring offence statistics:
- Road safety policy making and monitoring
 - Targeting campaigns relating to road safety
 - Lobbying government departments for policy or legislative change
 - Monitoring police performance and effectiveness of policing
 - Strategic decision making about police deployment
 - Identifying and supporting local community policing needs
 - National media outputs that inform public interest
 - To facilitate academic research
 - Personal interest

Annex 2: The Assessment Process

- A2.1 This Assessment was conducted from June 2019 to October 2019.
- A2.2 This report was prepared by the Office for Statistics Regulation and approved by the Regulation Committee on behalf of the Board of the UK Statistics Authority, based on the advice of the Director General for Regulation.
- A2.3 The regulatory team – Lewis Jack and Helen Miller-Bakewell – agreed the scope of and timetable for this assessment with representatives of PSNI in June 2019. Documentary evidence for the assessment was provided by the PSNI statistics team in July 2019. The regulatory team discussed and met with the statistics team in October 2019 to review compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, taking account of the evidence provided and research performed.
- A2.4 A key part of the assessment was talking to people who use the statistics, to help us to understand the current value of the statistics, and where there is the potential to increase this. We approached known and potential users of these statistics and conducted nine interviews. These users worked within policing, government or charities concerned with road safety or road use: our engagement gave us some insight into the extent to which the statistics meet different users' needs and to which users feel that the statistics' producers engage with them.

Key Documents

- A2.5 Evidence provided by PSNI statistics branch includes:
- NI Motoring Offence Statistics
 - Motoring Offence Statistics user guide
 - Motoring offences quality assurance administrative data report
 - Team organisational chart
 - Business plan
 - PSNI User engagement strategy

Annex 3: Next Steps

Responding to the assessment report: what the Office for Statistics Regulation and PSNI should expect from each other

A3.1 The publication of the Assessment report represents a key milestone in the assessment process but should not be viewed as the end point. The next phase, to meet the Requirements set out in this report, is critical to delivering the value, quality and trustworthiness to achieve and maintain National Statistics status. The next steps are as follows:

- the Chief Statistician can follow up with the Assessment Programme Manager about the Director General for Regulation's letter that accompanies this Assessment Report. The letter: draws out the key findings; provides advice about where the statistics team is likely to need senior management support and direction and conveys any findings that have wider implications for the producer body and statistical system
- the Chief Statistician is encouraged to:
 - i) develop an action plan to meet the Requirements to the timetable set out in paragraph ES.19 of this report
 - ii) agree the action plan with their senior management, and confirm that it is appropriately resourced
 - iii) share the action plan with the Office for Statistics Regulation, publish it alongside the statistics, and explain to users and suppliers how it will engage with them in delivering the plan
 - iv) seek out peers and support services that can help in delivering the plan – for example, [the National Statistician's Good Practice Team](#)
 - v) agree with the regulatory team, how often, and in what form, the statistics team would like to engage about progress against the action plan – for example, some teams choose to meet with the regulatory team once a month
- the statistics team should provide full formal written evidence to the Office for Statistics Regulation by the deadline of February 2020 as set out in paragraph ES.19 of this report. There is no set format for reporting, except that PSNI should demonstrate that it has addressed the findings given in Tables 1 to 3 and provide links to any published or internal documents as support
- the regulatory team will review the evidence within 10 working days and arrange to provide feedback to the statistics team. As part of this process, the regulatory team will talk again to users to establish how their experience of the statistics has changed. When the regulatory team is satisfied that the Requirements have been fully met, their conclusions will be quality assured by Office for Statistics Regulation's senior management and then presented to the Authority's Regulation Committee to confirm designation. The Director General will then write publicly to the lead official to confirm the decision
- in the event that Requirements are not fully met within the agreed timetable, the Authority will implement [escalation procedures](#).

A3.2 Based on experience, the Office for Statistics Regulation strongly encourages statistics teams to:

- engage with the detailed thinking of the Assessment report and revisit it regularly. The regulation team will be seeking evidence that the statisticians are demonstrating curiosity and are challenging their own thinking around delivering value, quality and

trustworthiness. The Requirements in this report should not be viewed as a simple checklist

- view the responsibility for meeting the Requirements as falling to the organisation as a whole, not just the team that produces the statistics.
- engage users early, not just to keep them updated, users can often offer valuable insight and expertise
- contact the regulatory team at any time if there are any questions or concerns

A3.3 Responsibility for complying with the Code of Practice does not end with the award of the National Statistics designation. It is the statistics producers' responsibility to maintain compliance and to improve the statistics on a continuous basis. The Office for Statistics Regulation encourages statistics producers to discuss promptly with the regulatory team any concerns about whether its statistics are meeting the appropriate standards. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained and reinstated only when standards are restored.

