

Standard 1: show integrity

Standard 1 of the [Standards for Official Statistics](#) in the Code of Practice for Statistics speaks to the actions of those producing and using official statistics so they can show they are trustworthy.

At the heart of the standard are the [Civil Service values](#), applied to working with official statistics: integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality. The standard requires ethical practice and care, to maintain public confidence in statistical independence. It also highlights the need to challenge misuse of statistics.

Impartial and objective use of statistics is allied to the [Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis](#) which emphasise the importance of avoiding the selective use of data.

This practice is relevant to senior leaders and others in the organisation using official statistics, as well as to those producing the statistics.

The Standard:

- 1. Producers must act with integrity, working and communicating in honest, objective and professional ways, and challenging misuse**
so that the public can have confidence in the behaviours of those involved in handling and using data and statistics
 - 1.1. Act professionally, work collaboratively and behave responsibly
 - 1.2. Handle data and statistics with honesty and integrity, in ways that serve the public good
 - 1.3. Present statistics impartially and objectively, ensuring statistical communication is balanced and does not mislead. Provide clear explanations to support appropriate interpretation of key messages
 - 1.4. Monitor the use of your statistics. Challenge notable misuse of the statistics or raise concerns with the Office for Statistics Regulation

Questions to consider:

1. **Being professional:** How do you ensure you work to these professional standards? What opportunities are there for further collaboration, such as with other analysts, other professional groups and users?
2. **Providing reassurance:** What behaviours and actions show you are trustworthy? Would users be convinced? What else can you do to show you are trustworthy?

3. **Objective and impartial:** In what ways do you ensure that your statistical presentation is objective? How else can you provide an impartial perspective? Have you left out anything from your statistics that would change users' interpretation?
4. **Pre-empting misunderstanding:** How can you anticipate the aspects of your statistics that might lead to misunderstandings? What do you provide to support the appropriate interpretation? What further steps could you take to mitigate risks of misunderstanding?
5. **Challenging misuse:** How do you monitor for the deliberate or accidental misuse of your statistics? How would your organisation challenge misuse? When would you seek advice from senior statistical leads or OSR? How should you act to prevent examples of misuse occurring?

Related guidance:

Civil Service:

- [Civil Service Code](#)
- [NI Civil Service Code](#)

Office for Statistics Regulation:

- [Guidance on Ensuring Public Accountability](#)

Government Statistical Service (GSS):

- [GSS competency framework](#)
- [Guide to GSS statistical techniques and tools](#)
- [Reporting concerns under the Code of Practice for Statistics](#)

UN Fundamental Principles:

- [Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems](#)

Other professional codes:

Government Social Researchers:

- [Code of conduct](#)

Market Research Society:

- [Professional standards for research practitioners](#)

UK Research and Innovation:

- [The Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#)

Good practice examples:

- Case study – Office for Rail and Regulation: [Independent production and the managed handling of statistics and data](#)
- Analysis Function Blog: [Growing public trust in statistics through collaborative communication and intelligent transparency](#)
- OSR Blog: [Whose line is it anyway? Why the misleading presentation of statistics cannot be dismissed as just a matter of opinion](#)
- OSR Blog: [Demonstrating transparency and integrity to support public trust](#)
- OSR Blog: [Transparency, integrity, and independence: the keys to improving Budget scrutiny and public understanding of risks to public finances](#)
- OSR Blog: [Is a picture really worth a thousand words?](#)

Code of Practice for Statistics:

- [Understanding TQV](#)
- [The Code Principles](#)
- [Standards for Official Statistics](#)
- [Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis](#)
- [Code Guidance](#) – other short guides supporting use of the Code