

# Code of Practice for Statistics

## Edition 3.0 Quick Reference Guide

### Purpose of the Code

- Sets standards for producing and using official statistics that serve the public good in the **Standards for Official Statistics** and the **Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis**
- Applicable to all users and producers of statistics, not just official statistics.
- Based on the core principles of **Trustworthiness, Quality, and Value (TQV)**

### Framework: TQV and the Code Principles

#### Trustworthiness

- About building confidence in the integrity and professionalism of producers
- Requires transparency, ethical behaviour, and responsible leadership

#### Quality

- Use appropriate data and methods to produce reliable statistics
- Focus on continuous improvement and be open about limitations

#### Value

- Ensure statistics are relevant, accessible, and support decision-making
- Engage with users and be responsive to their needs

### Code Principles (10 in total)

Trustworthiness	Quality	Value
1. Show integrity	5. Prioritise quality	8. Be relevant
2. Lead responsibly	6. Be rigorous	9. Be clear
3. Be transparent	7. Be open about quality	10. Be accessible
4. Manage data responsibly		



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### Standards for Official Statistics

For producers of official statistics. Each principle has associated required practices

- **Trustworthiness:** Integrity, leadership, transparency, data management
- **Quality:** Quality culture, rigorous methods, openness about quality
- **Value:** Relevance, clarity, accessibility

### Standards for Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis

For all public bodies using statistics in public communications

- **Equality of Access** – Publish data used in public statements
- **Supporting Understanding** – Communicate clearly and accurately
- **Decision Making and Leadership** – Use impartial expert advice

### TQV Voluntary Application Scheme

- Open to organisations outside official statistics
- Encourages commitment to TQV
- Includes publishing a statement of compliance and joining the Register of TQV Voluntary Application

### Guidance and Resources

- **Code Guidance:** Practical guides for applying the Code
- **Glossary:** Definitions of key terms and roles
- **Related Policies:** Civil Service Code, Nolan Principles, UN Fundamental Principles

### Some Key Terms used in the Code

- **Official Statistics:** Produced by Crown bodies or listed organisations
- **Accredited Official Statistics:** Assessed by OSR to meet Code standards
- **Intelligent Transparency:** Open, clear, and accessible communication of data

