The Code Principles
The Code of Practice for Statistics

These ten principles unpack Trustworthiness, Quality and Value (TQV), the core principles of the Code of Practice for Statistics.

1 Show integrity [T]

- **Do: Present and use data/statistics objectively, impartially, and professionally.**
- Don't: Withhold or misrepresent data/statistics due to political or commercial influence.

2 Lead responsibly [T]

- **Do: Foster evidence-based decision making, promote strong analytical skills, and uphold Trustworthiness, Quality, Value.**
- Don't: Rely on biased evidence, ignore diverse views, or refuse to adapt to change.

3 Be transparent [T]

- **Do: Be open about how, when, and to whom you release data/statistics.**
- Don't: Restrict release because results are uncomfortable, or avoid explaining corrections/revisions.

4 Manage data responsibly [T]

- **Do: Collect, use, and share data legally and ethically; be open about choices made.**
- Don't: Ignore data providers' rights or overlook risks to personal/corporate information disclosure.

5 Prioritise quality [Q]

- **Do: Promote quality, encourage continuous improvement, and learn from mistakes and good practice.**
- Don't: Discourage innovation/collaboration or dismiss quality concerns from staff, suppliers, or users.

6 Be rigorous [Q]

- **Do: Use suitable data sources and sound methods, applying professional standards.**
- Don't: Assume data are suitable or ignore quality issues/system changes.

7 Be open about quality [Q]

- **Do: Clearly describe data/statistics quality, including uncertainty and bias, and their impact on interpretation.**
- Don't: Assume quality is static or fail to communicate key quality/methods information.

8 Be relevant [V]

- **Do: Listen and respond to user feedback, explain choices about what can be progressed.**
- Don't: Make assumptions about usefulness or ignore requests for improvements.

9 Be clear [V]

- **Do: Ensure data/statistics are easy to use and understand, and tailored to audience's needs.**
- Don't: Present too much/confusing information, use jargon, or provide insufficient context.

10 Be accessible [V]

- **Do: Ensure easy access for all, meet legal accessibility standards.**
- Don't: Limit access or create barriers to sharing/reuse where there is public interest.

Office for Statistics Regulation

Use the QR code to visit the Code of Practice website to find out more