Office for
Statistics Regulation

Intelligent transparency:
2025 review

November 2025

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Overview

Why we did this review

This review comes at an important time. As misinformation and disinformation become more of a problem, it is essential that high-quality, official information is easily accessible and communicated well. This includes statistics, data and other types of analysis which can enable individuals and organisations to reach informed decisions and answer important questions, as well as providing mechanisms for holding governments to account for their commitments and decisions.

In October 2025, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) published the third edition of the Code of Practice for Statistics (the Code). A key change is the introduction of the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis. These standards are based on the concept of intelligent transparency, which at its heart is about proactively using statistics, data and other types of analysis in an open, clear and accessible way.

> **Intelligent transparency**
>
> Intelligent transparency means proactively taking an open, clear and accessible approach to the use of data, statistics and wider analysis in the public domain. Intelligent transparency is informed by three principles: equality of access, supporting understanding and decision making and leadership.

This report is OSR's first step in providing systematic insights into how well embedded intelligent transparency – and therefore compliance with the new standards – is within governments across the UK.

Highlighted findings

- There has been good progress in embedding intelligent transparency within ministerial departments and devolved governments of the UK. Understanding of the importance of intelligent transparency is high among statisticians and other analysts, and there has been some improvement in awareness among communications professionals. All the organisations in scope of this review have some form of guidance, training and/or processes in place to support adherence to intelligent transparency.
- Intelligent transparency is still not the default approach to using statistics, data and other types of analysis in the public domain. For example, in an illustrative review of press releases published during the week beginning 14 July, we found that only 17% named the source of their figures, and just under 10% provided a direct link to the source – a key requirement of intelligent transparency.
- Our review identified several key facilitators which support adherence to intelligent transparency: good collaboration across professions, clear processes for publishing ad hoc releases of analysis, bespoke training and guidance within departments and across professions, support from senior leaders and proactive

monitoring of organisations' own use of statistics and analysis in the public domain.

- Our review also identified several barriers which can hamper organisations' ability to adhere to intelligent transparency: lack of awareness of intelligent transparency among some in government, including communications professionals and special advisers; poor collaboration across professions; resource pressures for producing ad hoc releases and to support Heads of Profession for Statistics; and challenges in obtaining 'grid slots' from Number 10 for publishing ad hoc releases.

Summary of recommendations

To ensure that intelligent transparency is the default approach within governments across the UK, and to improve compliance with the new Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis, we make six recommendations in this report. These are aimed at ministerial departments and devolved governments and focus on:

- citing sources and directly link to them when using figures in public communications
- making public commitments to intelligent transparency
- understanding training needs for special advisers and those responsible for the 'grid' at Number 10 and improving connections between the statistical community across government and Number 10
- embedding and promoting guidance and training on intelligent transparency across professions
- preventing and promptly addressing misuse or misinterpretation of statistics
- sharing work on intelligent transparency among the statistical community

The full List of recommendations can be found later in this report.

Introduction

Intelligent transparency

Statistics and data are the lifeblood of democratic debate, so it is vital that they are used in a way that serves the public good. In a time of [high levels of misinformation and disinformation](#), it is essential that high-quality, official information, including statistics and data, is communicated well. Otherwise, misleading or incorrect information can easily spread.

For statistics, data and other types of analysis to serve the public good, they must be available in the first place. However, this on its own is not enough – even if the source for a figure is published, it might be hard to find, or the methods, definitions or limitations might not be explained clearly enough to support understanding and appropriate use. This is why we talk about *intelligent* transparency.

Intelligent transparency means proactively taking an open, clear and accessible approach to the use of data, statistics and wider analysis in the public domain. Intelligent transparency is informed by three principles: equality of access, supporting understanding and decision making and leadership.

Public bodies should follow the principles of intelligent transparency by default so that they build trust and confidence in how statistics, data and wider analysis are used and, crucially, in the policies and wider decisions based on them. Intelligent transparency also enhances the reputation of public bodies, ensures that public conversations focus on the important issues rather than a lack of transparency, and minimises the risk of misinterpretation or misuse of statistics.

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) [launched its intelligent transparency campaign](#) back in 2021 and published regulatory guidance to support its implementation by statistics producers in February 2022. Since then, as described in several of our annual [state of the statistical system](#) and [casework](#) reports, intelligent transparency has continued to be a common theme in our work. We continue to intervene, both publicly and privately as necessary, to highlight problems and support improvements. We have also developed our thinking on intelligent transparency, refreshing our regulatory guidance in September 2023, and have worked with the Government Communication Service to raise awareness of intelligent transparency among government communicators.

In its 2024 report [Transforming the UK's Evidence Base](#), the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) commended OSR for its work on intelligent transparency. The Committee recognised that our guidance has helped to unlock important evidence for Parliament, researchers and the public, but also highlighted that there is scope for further improvement. PACAC recommended that all government communications professionals be trained on intelligent transparency, and asked OSR to publish an annual report card on departments' compliance.

Intelligent transparency in the Code

In October 2025, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) published the third edition of the Code of Practice for Statistics (the Code). The Code sets the standards that those producing official statistics (statistics produced by Crown bodies and other organisations listed within an Official Statistics Order) must meet to deliver statistics that serve the public good. But the Code is not just for official statistics. Everyone can apply or draw on the Code to support confidence in data, analysis and statistics.

A key change in the third edition of the Code is the introduction of the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis, which are based on the concept of intelligent transparency. The standards set out OSR's expectations for how statistics, data and wider analysis should be used in the public domain by public bodies:

1. **Equality of access**
   Public bodies should make statistics, data and wider analysis used in the public domain available to everyone in a timely way
   so that the public can easily access, scrutinise and verify claims and decisions made based on them

2. **Supporting understanding**
   Public bodies should use statistics, data and wider analysis with integrity and communicate them with clarity and accuracy
   so that the public can easily understand the basis for claims and decisions made

3. **Decision making and leadership**
   Public bodies should seek and use impartial, expert advice when using statistics, data and wider analysis in the public domain
   so that the public can have confidence that they have been used appropriately

These standards apply beyond the publication of official statistics, for example, in press releases, blogs, social media posts, policy documents, speeches and interviews. Data and wider analysis include management information, research and economic modelling. The three standards are accompanied by a list of practices which set out the activities and behaviours required to meet them.

Why we did this review

This review comes at an important time. Given the recent inclusion of intelligent transparency within the third edition of the Code, it is essential to have a good understanding of what current adherence with intelligent transparency looks like. This will allow OSR to target support and interventions where they are most needed and will support all public bodies to adhere to the principles of intelligent transparency and the standards of the Code in future. This review is also a first step in providing systematic insights into governments' compliance with intelligent transparency, addressing the recommendation made by PACAC to regularly report on progress. Our next steps for this work are outlined at the end of this report.

The aims of this review were to:

- improve understanding of how well embedded the principles of intelligent transparency are within governments across the UK
- identify barriers which block progress to embedding intelligent transparency as the default approach
- identify facilitators and good practice which support intelligent transparency

How we did this review

The scope of this review was the 16 ministerial departments of the UK Government, Number 10 and the three devolved governments of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. A challenge for all these departments and governments is managing the balance between the priorities of governments and the impartiality that is required when working with statistics and other types of analysis. Ministerial departments and devolved governments are often working at extreme pace, which can make adhering to intelligent transparency even more challenging. Many of the issues relating to intelligent transparency that we investigate in our casework are therefore focused on them.

For these reasons, we chose to focus on ministerial departments and devolved governments in this review. However, it is important to note that we expect all public bodies to adhere to intelligent transparency and the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis. The findings and recommendations set out in this report will be relevant to many organisations. The full list of departments and governments included in this review is set out in Annex A.

To gather evidence to inform this review, we engaged with stakeholders including statisticians, other analysts, communications professionals and permanent secretaries. We surveyed Heads of Profession for Statistics and Chief Statisticians, held 13 semi-structured interviews with a range of stakeholders, and held a roundtable with Heads of Profession for Statistics. We also undertook desk research to look at OSR's published work on intelligent transparency and communications published by ministerial departments and devolved governments.

Findings

Embedding intelligent transparency

There has been good progress embedding intelligent transparency within ministerial departments and devolved governments since our campaign began.

Awareness and understanding of intelligent transparency are high among statisticians and other types of analysts. We carried out a survey of Heads of Profession for Statistics and Chief Statisticians within the 20 departments and governments in scope for this review and received 18 responses. Heads of Profession and Chief Statisticians were asked to rate how well they considered the principles of intelligent transparency were

embedded among different groups within their organisation: very poorly, quite poorly, neither well nor poorly, quite well or very well. Most respondents reported that among statisticians, the principles of intelligent transparency are embedded either very well (10 out of 18 respondents) or well (6 out of 18 respondents) within their organisation (see Figure 1). No respondents reported intelligent transparency being quite or very poorly embedded among statisticians.

While this is a self-reported measure, it strongly supports similar findings from our engagement with statisticians during regulatory work and our previous 'state of the statistical system' reviews. In our 2024 State of the Statistical System report, we found that government departments were increasingly following the principles of intelligent transparency by making underlying analysis available when figures were used in public statements.

This followed our 2023 State of the Statistical System report, which found that the statistical system was demonstrating a greater understanding of the need for intelligent transparency and highlighted a variety of approaches being taken to minimise the risk of unpublished figures being used in the public domain. These examples included embedding analytical teams within private offices, setting out agreements on the use of statistics with departmental communications team, and providing training on the use of statistics to the wider department. However, we noted in our 2024 report that concerns were still being raised with us regarding ministers and other government officials publicly quoting unpublished figures or figures that lack context.

Figure 1. How well or poorly embedded are the principles of intelligent transparency with statisticians in your department?
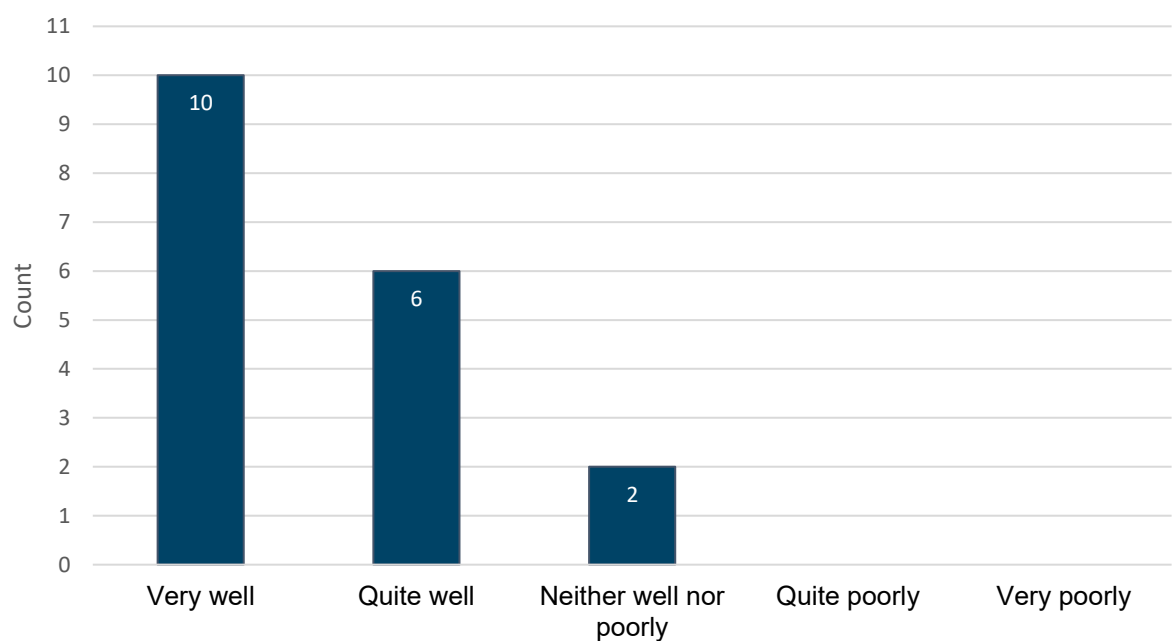
Heads of Profession for Statistics and Chief Statisticians themselves have also become strong champions for intelligent transparency. Heads of Profession were some of the strongest supporters for introducing intelligent transparency to the third edition of the Code. They have also been instrumental in developing and implementing guidance,

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providing training and embedding processes to support intelligent transparency within their organisations. All the departments and governments in scope of this review now have some form of guidance, training and/or processes relating to intelligent transparency in place. Specific examples of these are detailed in three case studies later in this report.

The success of embedding intelligent transparency within organisations relies on everyone, not just analysts and statisticians. We have seen some improvement in the awareness and understanding of intelligent transparency among communications professionals in the last couple of years.

OSR has worked closely with the Government Communication Service (GCS) to raise awareness of the Code and intelligent transparency. We have jointly developed training modules on communicating statistics and intelligent transparency as part of the GCS Advanced training modules. OSR has also presented on intelligent transparency at the weekly GCS call and to communication teams within departments and governments including HM Treasury, Defra, the Department for Education and the Scottish Government. Finally, OSR's Director General for Regulation was also joined by the Head of Government Communications at the 2024 Government Statistical Service conference, where they gave a joint [keynote session](#) on the importance of communications and analytical professionals working together to build public trust in statistics through intelligent transparency.

However, we found in this review that awareness and prioritisation of intelligent transparency among non-statisticians, particularly beyond the analytical professions, is variable and generally not as good. In our survey, fewer than half of respondents reported intelligent transparency being very (1 out of 18 respondents) or quite (7 out of 18 respondents) well embedded beyond statisticians (see Figure 2). Most respondents reported that intelligent transparency is either quite poorly (4 out of 18 respondents) or neither well nor poorly (6 out of 18 respondents) embedded.

The most common groups that respondents identified as requiring the most support with intelligent transparency were special advisers, policy colleagues, private offices, ministers and, despite the progress described above, communications professionals (see Figure 3). In our conversations with stakeholders, economists were also identified as a specific group within the analytical professions which may require more support. Some stakeholders told us that in their experience, although awareness of the concept of intelligent transparency may be lower among these groups, most colleagues do understand the need for it when it is explained, and active resistance to implementing the principles is incredibly rare. This points to a need for initiatives to proactively raise awareness and support the implementation of intelligent transparency across professions, which we discuss in more detail in this report in the section on *Training and guidance*.

Figure 2. How well or poorly embedded are the principles of intelligent transparency in your wider department?
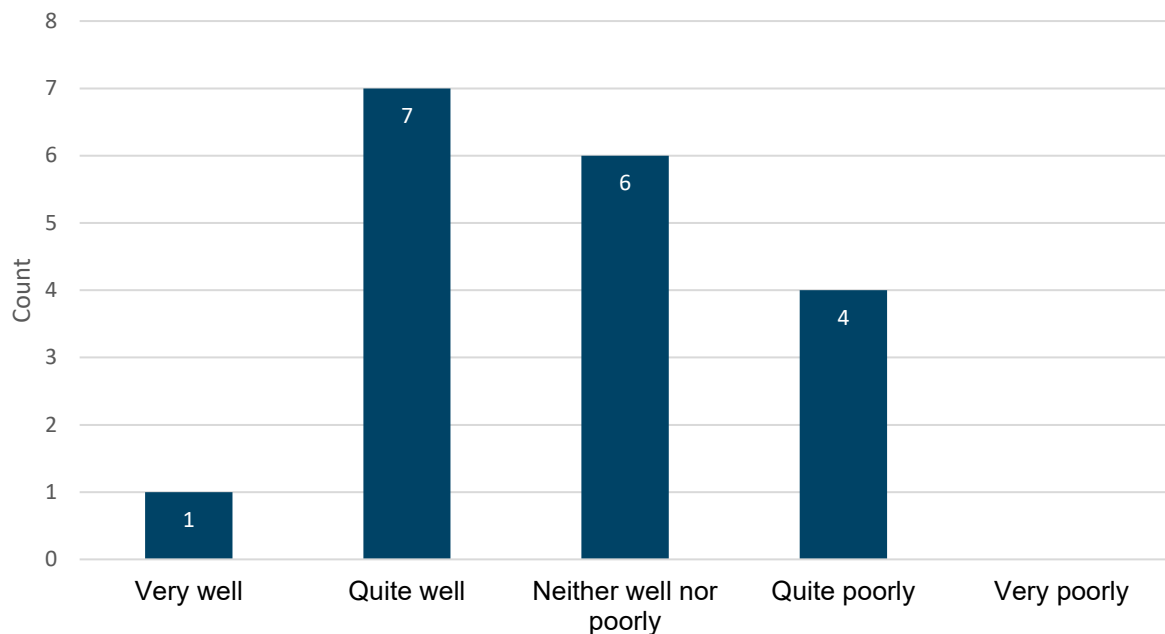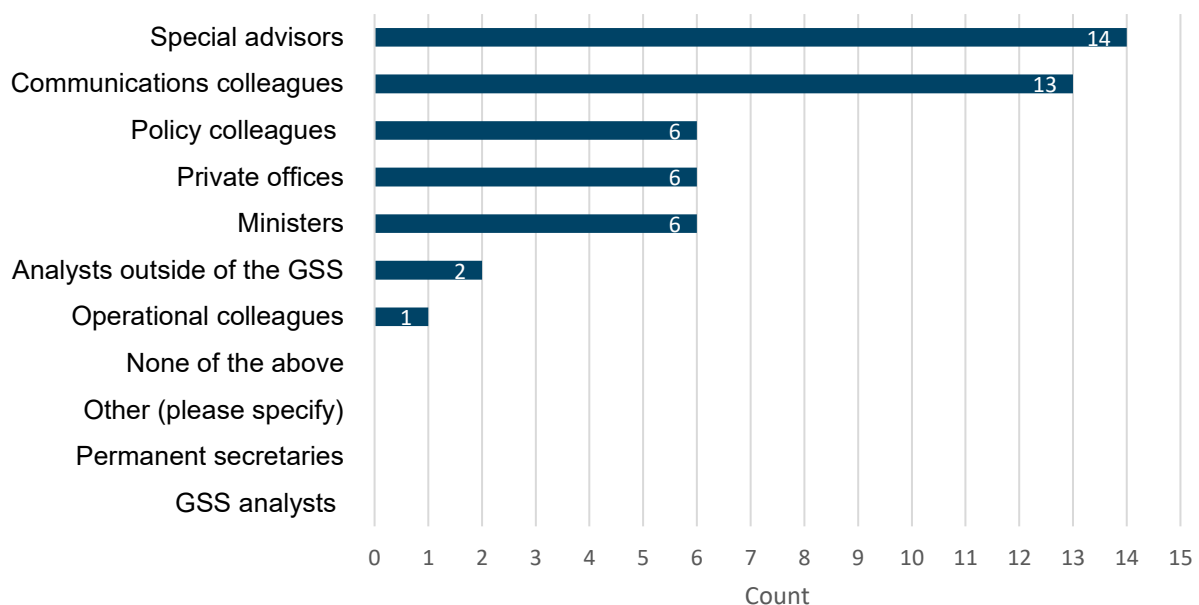

Figure 3. In your department, which of the following groups do you believe require the most support with intelligent transparency?

There is also variation in how successful the embedding of intelligent transparency has been across different ministerial departments and governments. We heard from stakeholders that each organisation experiences its own unique set of challenges. Factors which influence this include varying levels of resource for analytical work, varying pressures to work at pace and the nature of the topics covered by departments, for example those that are of high public interest or are highly sensitive.

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At OSR, we see this variation evidenced by requests for more support from us by some organisations compared to others. We also see varying rates of issues relating to intelligent transparency raised with us, for example through our casework. However, we do note that patterns in our casework can reflect topics which are of high public interest at a certain point in time, or of interest to individuals who contact us, rather than reflecting how well embedded intelligent transparency is within an organisation.

In the following sections of this report, we consider each principle of intelligent transparency, setting out our findings and recommendations for improvement.

Equality of access

Equality of access is at the very heart of intelligent transparency. For the public to be able to scrutinise claims and decisions which are made based on analysis, that analysis needs to be available to everyone. The Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis state that, where possible, public communications should draw on the latest and most reliable published official statistics. When this is not possible, the relevant analysis should be published in advance of use in public communications and separately from related policy and ministerial statements – for example, in what is referred to as an 'ad hoc release'. If unpublished statistics, data or wider analysis are referred to publicly, they should be published as soon as possible afterwards, ideally on the same day.

Collaboration across professions

In order to achieve equality of access, it is essential that colleagues work together across professions. This is because many different people are involved in the preparation and use of analysis – from those producing the initial analysis, to communications professionals, to those working in private offices who are directly briefing ministers.

Stakeholders told us that strong relationships and collaboration between professions can be a key facilitator of the implementation of intelligent transparency. To facilitate this, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has embedded an analyst within its private office. This lead analyst acts as a key point of contact, ensuring awareness of wider analytical activities and adherence to the Code. More information about DWP's activities to embed intelligent transparency are detailed in a case study later in this report. Finally, we also heard from stakeholders about the positive impact that strong support from senior leaders, such as permanent secretaries and directors of communication, can have on successfully embedding the principles of intelligent transparency. We discuss this topic again later in the section on **Decision making and leadership**.

While good collaboration is a key facilitator to embedding intelligent transparency, poor collaboration between professions can cause issues. For example, we heard from stakeholders that a lack of engagement between analysts, private offices and communications or policy professionals sometimes made it more challenging to achieve intelligent transparency. In some cases where issues with adhering to intelligent transparency had occurred, stakeholders highlighted that this was due to no analysts being involved before a figure was used in a briefing or publication. Some stakeholders

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reflected that changes in departmental structure to bring relevant teams into one directorate had made a positive impact on this. Clearly defined processes which require analytical advice to be sought when figures are used in briefings and publications have also helped some organisations to improve collaboration between professions.

Publishing ad hoc releases

In some situations, if the analysis to support a planned publication or public statement is not already in the public domain, an ad hoc release will need to be prepared and published in advance. This can place additional pressure on analytical and publishing staff within organisations. Stakeholders told us that limited resource to deliver ad hoc releases and explainers can be a barrier to implementing intelligent transparency. This barrier is most prominent within departments with small official statistics functions, such as the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, or those with a large breadth of analyses across various topics and by various producers both within and outside of government, such as the Department for Transport and the Department for Health and Social Care.

We also heard that where the analysis being published in an ad hoc release is not a clearly defined type of analytical output (for example, official statistics, research or policy evaluation), there can be no clear mechanism to ensure that the analysis is published in a timely way. This was a barrier previously experienced by the Department for Transport (DfT). To overcome this barrier, DfT agreed and internally published guidance on the publication approach for this scenario. Once analysts have determined that the use of a particular figures in a public statement is appropriate, supporting material in the form of a background quality and methodology note is prepared and published. This new process has been endorsed by the chief analyst, chief press officers and the DfT publishing team, and has meant that the department can focus on transparency rather than spending time on the logistics of publishing analysis.

Engagement with Number 10

Some stakeholders identified 'grid slots' and collaborating with Number 10 as occasional barriers to publishing ad hoc releases to support the public use of statistics, data and wider analysis. The 'grid' is used by Number 10 to plan government announcements and publications, and a slot on the grid can be the main mechanism available to ministerial departments for ad hoc publications. In practice, a slot can be challenging to obtain, particularly when there is a deadline by which analysis should ideally be published.

We have found that there is a good understanding of the requirements of the Code and intelligent transparency within the analytical team at Number 10. This includes the Number 10 Data Science team (known as 10DS) which regularly engages with data teams across government. However, stakeholders also told us that in their experience, awareness and understanding of these can be relatively low among special advisers and those responsible for the gridding system. As there is no Chief Statistician or Head of Profession for Statistics within Number 10, statisticians in other departments do not always know who to contact to discuss issues relating to data and statistics. Stakeholders told us that this can exacerbate challenges when trying to identify grid

slots for publications or resolve issues about the use of unpublished data in the public domain.

Recommendation 1: To support equality of access to statistics, data and wider analysis, Number 10 should review and act on training needs on the Code of Practice for Statistics and intelligent transparency for special advisers and those responsible for the 'grid'. It should also improve connections with the statistical community across government so that issues can be identified and resolved promptly. For example, it may be beneficial to introduce a Chief Statistician role within Number 10, or for relevant colleagues within Number 10 to make links with the Head of Profession for Statistics network by joining their regular mailing list and meetings.

Supporting understanding

Once statistics and data are in the public domain, it is crucial that they are communicated and used with integrity, clarity and accuracy. This allows the public to understand the basis for claims and decisions made, in turn supporting understanding of key societal issues, including the impact of policy. The Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis state that public communications should be clear about where figures come from, for example, by citing sources in publications and on social media.

Citing sources

Through our regulatory work, we are aware of several examples where sources have not been cited for numbers used in government publications such as press releases, blogs and infographics shared on social media. To better understand the scale of this issue, we carried out a manual check of all press releases published by ministerial departments and devolved governments between 14 July and 20 July 2025. We reviewed each press release to identify references to statistics, data and analysis, and to determine whether a source was cited (for example, named in the main text or in footnotes) and whether a link to the source was provided. It is important to note that if a citation and/or link to the source was not identified, this does not necessarily mean that the underlying analysis is not published. Annex C provides a summary of our review.

We identified 80 press releases published during the week beginning 14 July. Within these 80 press releases, there were 209 references to data or statistics. Of these 209 references, only 36 (17%) cited the source and just 18 (9%) provided a direct link to the source. The citing of sources is fundamental to intelligent transparency and is now a core expectation of the Code – this is because it enables the public to easily access and scrutinise the supporting information behind figures and the decisions and claims made based on them. Given its importance to achieving intelligent transparency, we want to see an increase in the proportion of figures which cite and provide a direct link to their source in government press releases and other types of publications. At OSR, we are working on ways to monitor progress on this, including the automated checking of government publications.

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During our review we spoke to several communications professionals, including members of the central Government Communications Service (GCS) team. They identified that citing sources for figures does not form part of standard practice when publishing communications materials such as press releases and blogs, but that in practice this should be a straightforward improvement to implement. As the GCS refreshes its professional standards, we will be pleased to work with it to ensure that citing sources is embedded as good practice.

> **Recommendation 2**: To support public understanding of figures and ensure adherence to the Code of Practice for Statistics, all statistics, data and wider analysis used in public communications by ministerial departments and devolved governments should cite a source and directly link to that source. To support this goal, the Government Communication Service should embed expectations about citing sources within its refreshed standards and guidance for communication professionals and clearly communicate these across its networks.

Preventing misuse

The Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis state that public bodies should not use figures in a misleading way, for example by cherry-picking figures, taking them out of context or placing undue certainty on them. The standards also require public bodies to clearly communicate any key context and limitations associated with statistics, data and wider analysis to help the public understand and interpret them.

In order to monitor its own use of statistics, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) has a well-established 'control of statistics' group. The group meets monthly and includes representatives from analytical and communications teams to monitor the public use of statistics by DBT. The group identifies, rectifies and maintains a log of any errors related to statistics and data that are made in public communications (for example, in ministerial speeches, departmental press releases or on social media). This allows DBT to understand if there are common themes in the errors and, if so, to develop and target internal guidance on the use of specific statistics. The group also promotes best practice in the communication of statistics and analysis. More information about this group and DBT's other activities to promote and embed intelligent transparency can be found in a case study later in this report.

We did not identify any other examples of producers proactively monitoring their own use of statistics, data and analysis in the public domain during our review. While there may be other ways to effectively prevent and address misuse or misinterpretation, we consider that the approach used within the Department for Business and Trade provides a good practice model that others can learn from.

Recommendation 3: To prevent and promptly address misuse or misinterpretation, ministerial departments and devolved governments should proactively monitor their public use of statistics, data and wider analysis.

Decision making and leadership

The third and final principle of intelligent transparency is about how statistics, data and wider analysis are prepared and published, and who is involved in these processes. The Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis state that public bodies should seek and use impartial, expert advice when using statistics, data and wider analysis in the public domain. To ensure that this practice happens, senior leaders are asked to actively promote and embed these standards within their organisation.

Support from senior leaders

As discussed earlier, we identified that support from senior leaders, such as permanent secretaries and directors of communication, can have a significant impact on how well intelligent transparency is adhered to within an organisation. In the departments where there has been strong progress in embedding intelligent transparency, for example in the Department for Education and the Department for Work and Pensions, senior leaders have made their support clear to Heads of Profession for Statistics and actively engaged in efforts to improve adherence to intelligent transparency.

We have also received several private letters from ministers within the UK Government endorsing the importance of intelligent transparency and committing their departments to adhering to its principles. Given these expectations now form a core part of the Code, and to increase transparency, we consider it important that these commitments are expressed publicly by all departments and governments. This would make the importance of adhering to intelligent transparency clear to everyone in the organisation and provide strong support for Heads of Profession for Statistics and Chief Statistics in their work to ensure compliance with the Code.

Recommendation 4: To increase transparency and build public trust in the use of statistics, data and wider analysis, ministerial departments and devolved governments should publish public commitments to intelligent transparency. This could take the form of a statement of compliance which sets out what steps the organisation takes to adhere to the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis and how it resolves issues if they are identified.

Training and guidance

Finally, training and guidance are key to ensuring that expectations about intelligent transparency are clear to everyone and that staff across professions know how to adhere to them. Alongside the publication of the refreshed Code, OSR has published guidance on the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis. This guidance sets out who is responsible for implementing the standards, and provides practical advice for all those using statistics, data and wider analysis in the public domain. We also regularly deliver training in the form of interactive seminars to government departments and have developed content for different audiences, including statisticians and other analysts, communications professionals and policy professionals. As discussed earlier, the GCS also includes training on intelligent transparency in its Advanced training modules for communications professionals.

In addition to the guidance and training offered by OSR and the GCS, stakeholders identified that department-specific training and guidance can be very effective. This is because it can be tailored to be as relevant as possible to the circumstances and challenges that staff within the organisation are working with. For example, the Department for Education (DfE) has developed a suite of guidance aimed at different groups within the department, including senior leaders, ministers, special advisers and communications staff. The guidance provides practical advice on the presentation and publication of statistics and other analysis to support intelligent transparency. To promote use of the guidance, DfE runs monthly knowledge sharing sessions and has online induction materials for new starters.

It is important to note that the development of bespoke guidance and ongoing delivery of training require substantial resource. Respondents to our survey indicated that not everyone has access to additional support for intelligent transparency beyond what is offered by OSR, with some explicitly highlighting that there was no additional guidance or material available in their department. While some departments, including DfE, have well-staffed central statistical teams to support Heads of Profession for Statistics with these activities, this is not the case in every department, and some stakeholders told us that resource pressures can be a barrier to developing bespoke guidance and training materials.

To raise awareness and understanding of intelligent transparency across governments and help ease the pressures of delivering guidance and training from central statistical teams, we would like to see the economic, social research and policy professions include bespoke guidance on intelligent transparency within their professional guidance.

Recommendation 5: To ensure that knowledge about intelligent transparency is consistent across professions, guidance and training on intelligent transparency should be embedded and promoted amongst the Government Economic Service, the Government Social Research profession and the Government Policy profession.

Case studies of good practice

In this section of the report, we share three good practice case studies from the Department for Business and Trade, the Department for Work and Pensions, and the Department for Education. We consider that each of these case studies provides rich, practical examples that other organisations can learn from.

It is important to note that all three of the departments included in these case studies have a dedicated Head of Profession for Statistics office and a relatively large number of statisticians and official statistics publications compared to some other departments. It should also be noted that these are not the only examples of good practice that we identified during our review.

We would like to see all departments and governments more regularly sharing the work they are doing on intelligent transparency with each other. This will help to improve consistency across organisations and reduce duplication of effort in a time of constrained resources for many.

> **Recommendation 6**: To improve consistency of practices and reduce duplication of effort, Heads of Profession for Statistics and Chief Statisticians should regularly share their work on intelligent transparency with each other. This could include sharing of guidance and training materials, processes for the publication of ad hoc releases, and other initiatives to increase the awareness of and adherence to the principles of intelligent transparency.

Case study: Department for Business and Trade

Overview

The Chief Statistician for the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) jointly owns a departmental risk related to the use and potential misuse of statistics, reflecting the department's commitment to intelligent transparency at the highest levels. Recognising that adhering to intelligent transparency is an ongoing challenge, DBT treats it as a continuous process, rather than a one-off initiative.

DBT's proactive and evolving approach to embedding intelligent transparency has led to:
- increased awareness of intelligent transparency across the department
- stronger governance and monitoring of statistical outputs
- a culture of shared responsibility for intelligent transparency
- improved ability to respond to and learn from issues

Training and Capacity Building

Analysts

DBT runs regular training for analysts. As part of this, intelligent transparency is covered in the induction training for analysts, with refresher training provided to ensure continued awareness.

Wider department

DBT acknowledges that many people in the department will need to communicate statistics, whether in press releases, ministerial briefings or parliamentary questions. To support this, DBT developed the 'Top Tips for Communicating Statistics'. The Top Tips explain that when using statistics in external communications, it is important to ensure transparency, credibility and consistency. This means using publicly available and verifiable data, prioritising official sources and clearly referencing where figures come from. The use of DBT statistical products is encouraged, and all external uses of data should be approved by an analyst to ensure accuracy.

DBT's 'Top Tips' are shared via both video and written formats to suit different learning styles. The video format uses a baking analogy to make the guidance memorable and engaging, for example, "knowing your ingredients" (data) and "how to present your cake" (analysis). When new ministers join DBT, the Chief Statistician sends a submission on the statistics service in the department. This submission includes the "Top Tips" and the pre-release access (PRA) protocol.

DBT has hosted three in-person half-day sessions delivered by the fact-checking charity Full Fact, simulating live fact-checking scenarios. This training is available to analysts and communications professionals. DBT's aim is to deliver this training at least once a year, and those who attend share learnings with their teams afterwards.

In October 2025, DBT organised a 'stats week' to coincide with World Statistics Day. This raised awareness of statistics across the whole department and included intelligent transparency as a key topic.

Governance and Oversight

Control of Statistics group

DBT has a 'control of statistics' group, which meets monthly, bringing together representatives from analytical teams and communications teams to monitor use of statistics in DBT outputs. The group's mandate is to mitigate the risk of inappropriate use or handling of statistics, which may result in public criticism and cause reputational damage to DBT.

The group identifies common statistical/analytical errors and develops targeted guidance on identified topics or provides training to teams to resolve recurring issues. The group also promotes best practice in the communication of statistics and analysis.

DBT is exploring the automation of this monitoring process in collaboration with its analytical data science team.

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In DBT, sign-off procedures are in place to ensure that any press release or other publication with analytical content is cleared by an analyst. This ensures that analysts have more oversight of what gets communicated externally. To help bridge the gap between analysis and communication, DBT has a statistics fast streamer embedded in the press office.

Case study: Department for Work and Pensions

Overview

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has made good progress in embedding the principles of intelligent transparency across its analytical and communications functions. Through a combination of structured guidance, proactive engagement and continuous learning, DWP is fostering a culture where transparency is seen as a shared responsibility.

DWP has taken a proactive approach to learning from past challenges. For example, minor breaches and errors are used as learning opportunities to strengthen future practice, and clear guidance has been created for communication teams to ensure all materials which feature data and statistics are cleared by analysts.

DWP's reflective approach and focus on continuous improvement have led to:

- increased awareness and understanding of intelligent transparency across analytical and communications teams
- improved processes for sign-off and accountability
- a growing culture of shared responsibility for intelligent transparency
- enhanced ability to respond to challenges and adapt guidance accordingly

Training and Capacity Building

Analysts

Training is a key part of DWP's strategy to embed the principles of intelligent transparency. Induction sessions for all new analysts include training on working with statistics and intelligent transparency, and senior analyst training sessions reinforce intelligent transparency principles and accountability.

Wider department

DWP is piloting a new teach-in for communications colleagues, with plans to record and refine the training for future use. The core message of the training is clear: "Everyone has a role to play" in upholding intelligent transparency. DWP is also planning teach-ins for private offices to extend understanding and support for intelligent transparency to other professions.

Governance and Oversight

Organisational structure

DWP has strong collaboration across teams. Analytical teams are embedded throughout the department, encompassing policy, operations and the corporate centre. This structure facilitates close working relationships. Engagement with communications professionals and the private office has been enhanced through the establishment of a Private Office Analytical Team with a lead analyst providing a direct link to the private office. This integrated model helps ensure that analytical oversight to adhere to intelligent transparency is shared across divisions.

Centralised Support and Guidance

DWP's central statistics team, led by the Head of Profession for Statistics and deputy Head of Profession for Statistics, provides ongoing support to statistical producers through:

- a dedicated email inbox for queries and advice
- a SharePoint site hosting tailored guidance, including 'dos and don'ts' based on DWP's specific context and experiences
- guidance targeted at communications professionals

This centralised approach to providing support and guidance ensures consistent messaging and supports best practice across the department. The central statistics team aims to expand the delivery of training sessions and teach-ins beyond its team, empowering others to lead sessions as well.

Statistical Work Programme

DWP uses a [statistical work programme](#) to engage users and be open and transparent about its development plans. The programme provides a framework for understanding user needs, internal and external engagement, and announcing and publishing outputs. This structured approach to statistical development enhances visibility and supports strategic planning

Processes

DWP has embedded intelligent transparency into its operational processes by ensuring that all communications outputs which use analysis must be signed off by lead analysts. Freedom of information (FoI) responses involving analysis are routed through operational teams but are expected to be dealt with by analysts as part of established controls. Additionally, a lead analyst within the private office acts as a key point of contact, ensuring awareness of wider activity and adherence to the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Case study: Department for Education

Overview

The Department for Education (DfE) has demonstrated a proactive approach to intelligent transparency, integrating it across analytical, policy and communications professions. Through targeted guidance, training and cultural change, DfE has built a strong foundation for transparent statistical practices that support public trust and informed decision making.

DfE's strong analytical culture and targeted support and guidance have led to:

- increased early engagement from analysts with the Head of Profession for Statistics office
- greater clarity and consistency in statistical outputs
- improved understanding of intelligent transparency among senior stakeholders
- a culture of intelligent transparency embedded across analytical and policy teams

Training and Capacity Building

Analysts

DfE has developed a suite of guidance documents aimed at distinct audiences within the analytical community, including the analytical professions' senior leaders. This guidance clarifies the distinctions between management information (MI) and ad hoc statistics and provides practical advice on presentation and publication. The guidance has helped analysts understand when and how to publish data to support intelligent transparency and has encouraged earlier engagement with the Head of Profession for Statistics office.

To address the challenge of underused guidance, DfE initiated:

- Knowledge Share Sessions: A series of monthly 45-minute online meetings focused on specific statistical topics (e.g., MI vs ad hoc, badging, learning and development). These sessions are well attended and provide a reusable bank of training materials.
- Update Sessions: A monthly 25-minute update session covering new guidance, and developments, including intelligent transparency-related content.
- Online Induction Training Module: Refreshed training materials for new starters with intelligent transparency embedded alongside the Code of Practice for Statistics, allowing tracking of completion of training and signposting further support.

Wider department

Recognising the importance of senior buy-in, DfE organised targeted induction sessions and materials for ministers, special advisers and senior communications staff. These sessions introduce the Code of Practice for Statistics, explain the difference between

regular and ad hoc statistics and emphasise the role of intelligent transparency in enabling scrutiny and public confidence.

By framing intelligent transparency as a supportive tool rather than a constraint, DfE has fostered trust and collaboration with senior staff, encouraging special advisers to coordinate with analysts before quoting figures publicly.

Governance and Oversight

Organisational structure and culture

DfE has a decentralised analytical model, where each policy group includes an embedded analytical division led by analytical senior leaders. This structure ensures:

- close collaboration between analysts and policy teams
- consistent application of intelligent transparency principles
- accountability for intelligent transparency at senior analytical levels

Training for policy-facing analysts and clear expectations for senior analytical leaders have reinforced this culture.

DfE's efforts to embed intelligent transparency are supported by strong relationships across professions. DfE is working on engaging communications professionals through refreshed guidance and training, and the Head of Profession for Statistics office works closely with social researchers and policy analysts.

DfE has put in place central monitoring of MI and ad hoc releases, further strengthening oversight.

Centralised Support

The HoP office plays a central role in sustaining intelligent transparency practices by:

- maintaining a responsive mailbox for analyst queries
- preparing tailored materials for common publishing scenarios
- encouraging long-term thinking about data needs (e.g., transitioning ad hoc releases into regular series)

List of recommendations

To ensure that intelligent transparency is the default approach to the public use of statistics, data and wider analysis, we make the following six recommendations aimed at ministerial departments of the UK Government and the devolved governments.

Recommendation 1: To support equality of access to statistics, data and wider analysis, Number 10 should review and act on training needs on the Code of Practice for Statistics and intelligent transparency for special advisers and those responsible for the 'grid'. It should also improve connections with the statistical community across government so that issues can be identified and resolved promptly. For example, it may be beneficial to introduce a Chief Statistician role within Number 10, or for relevant colleagues within Number 10 to make links with the Head of Profession for Statistics network by joining their regular mailing list and meetings.

Recommendation 2: To support public understanding of figures and ensure adherence to the Code of Practice for Statistics, all statistics, data and wider analysis used in public communications by ministerial departments and devolved governments should cite a source and directly link to that source. To support this goal, the Government Communication Service should embed expectations about citing sources within its guidance for communication professionals and clearly communicate this across its networks.

Recommendation 3: To prevent and promptly address misuse or misinterpretation, ministerial departments and devolved governments should proactively monitor their public use of statistics, data and wider analysis.

Recommendation 4: To increase transparency and build public trust in the use of statistics, data and wider analysis, ministerial departments and devolved governments should publish public commitments to intelligent transparency. This could take the form of a statement of compliance which sets out what steps the organisation takes to adhere to the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis and how it resolves issues if they are identified.

Recommendation 5: To ensure that knowledge about intelligent transparency is consistent across professions, guidance and training on intelligent transparency should be embedded and promoted amongst the Government Economic Service, the Government Social Research profession, and the Government Policy profession.

Recommendation 6: To improve consistency of practices and reduce duplication of effort, Heads of Profession for Statistics and Chief Statisticians should regularly share their work on intelligent transparency with each other. This could include sharing of guidance and training materials, processes for the publication of ad hoc releases, and other initiatives to increase the awareness of and adherence to the principles of intelligent transparency.

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Next steps

We will monitor work towards the recommendations made in this report over the next year and provide a public update on progress after this point. We will continue to deal with issues relating to intelligent transparency through our [casework](#). We will also continue to support public bodies to comply with the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis by delivering training and targeted support and highlighting areas of good practice. Finally, we are exploring ways in which we could more proactively and systematically monitor compliance with the new standards, for example through public report cards.

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Annex A: List of organisations in scope for the review

Listed below are the ministerial departments and devolved governments which were included in the scope of this review.

1. Cabinet Office

2. Department for Business and Trade (DBT)

3. Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)

4. Department for Education (DfE)

5. Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)

6. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

7. Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT)

8. Department for Transport (DfT)

9. Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

10. Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

11. Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

12. HM Treasury (HMT)

13. Home Office (HO)

14. Ministry of Defence (MoD)

15. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

16. Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

17. Northern Ireland Executive (NIE)

18. Scottish Government (SG)

19. Welsh Government (WG)

20. 10 Downing Street (Number 10)

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Annex B: Analysis of survey of Heads of Profession for Statistics/Chief Statisticians

Introduction

The aim of this survey was to gather the views from Head of Profession for Statistics and Chief Statisticians on what about intelligent transparency works well within their departments, what barriers remain and what processes departments have in place to support intelligent transparency. The survey ran from 20 February 2025 to 28 March 2025.

We had a good response rate, with 18 out of 20 departments in scope responding, including each of the devolved governments. Though two departments did not respond to the survey, their views were captured in follow-up interviews as part of the wider stakeholder engagement for this review.

Methodology

The survey included 13 questions and was presented in five sections:

- Your experiences of Intelligent Transparency
- Support for Intelligent Transparency
- Your barriers to Intelligent Transparency
- Future OSR Work
- Additional information

The results below have been organised under these sections. There were three types of questions in the survey: single choice, multiple choice and free text; the question type and whether the question was optional have been labelled in the results.

Single-select questions (mandatory)

As respondents were only able to choose one option per question, one count represents a single respondent. The options that the respondents were presented with are shown on the x axis of the bar charts. As each single-select question was mandatory, the sum of the bar values will equal the total number of respondents (18).

Multiple-select questions (mandatory)

As respondents were able to choose any combination of options for each question, the number of recorded selections can vary from question to question. The options that the respondents were presented with are shown on the y axis of the bar charts.

Free text (mandatory or optional)

Due to the nature of free-text questions, the responses have been represented as general summaries. In these summaries, we have identified common themes across all recorded responses. These data are qualitative, which means other common themes

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could have been missed during analysis of the responses. Full responses have not been included to avoid disclosing the identity of respondents.

Results

Your experiences of Intelligent Transparency

Question 1: How familiar or unfamiliar are you with the concept of Intelligent Transparency? (single select, mandatory)

All respondents reported being familiar with intelligent transparency, with 16 out of 18 respondents selecting "very familiar".

Figure 4. How familiar or unfamiliar are you with the concept of intelligent transparency?

Question 2: How important or unimportant do you believe Intelligent Transparency is to supporting appropriate use of government data and statistics? (single select, mandatory)

Intelligent transparency appeared to be well understood among the Heads of Profession for Statistics and Chief Statisticians who responded to this survey. In addition, 16 respondents reported that they believe that intelligent transparency is "very important", with no respondents indicating that they believe it is unimportant.

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Figure 5. How important or unimportant do you believe Intelligent Transparency is to supporting appropriate use of government data and statistics?
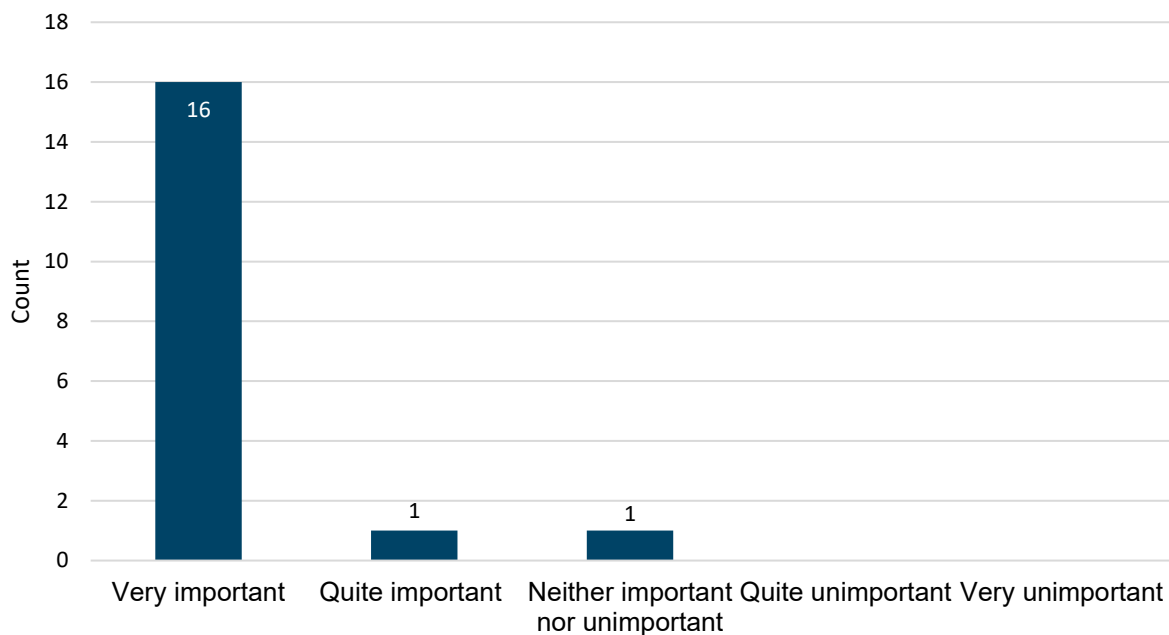
Question 3: In your experience, how well or poorly embedded are the principles of Intelligent Transparency with statisticians in your department? (single select, mandatory)

Most departments who provided a response described intelligent transparency as being well embedded among their statisticians, with 10 and 6 respondents selecting that the principles of intelligent transparency are "very well" and "quite well" embedded, respectively. Only two respondents indicated that intelligent transparency is embedded "neither well nor poorly" within their department.

Figure 6. How well or poorly embedded are the principles of Intelligent Transparency with statisticians in your department?
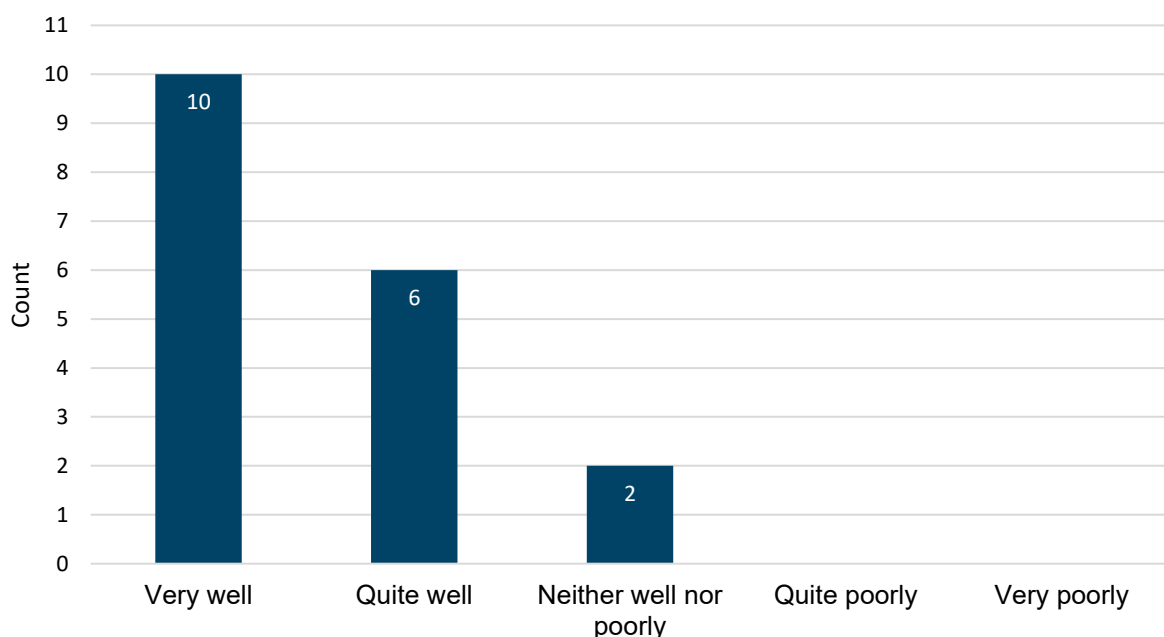
Question 4: In your experience, how well or poorly embedded are the [principles of Intelligent Transparency](#) in your wider department? (single select, mandatory)

Respondents were more mixed in terms of whether they indicated that they believe intelligent transparency is well embedded in their wider department (beyond statisticians). Responses varied from intelligent transparency being embedded "quite well" (7), to "neither well nor poorly" (6), to "quite poorly" (4).

Figure 7. How well or poorly embedded are the principles of Intelligent Transparency in your wider department?
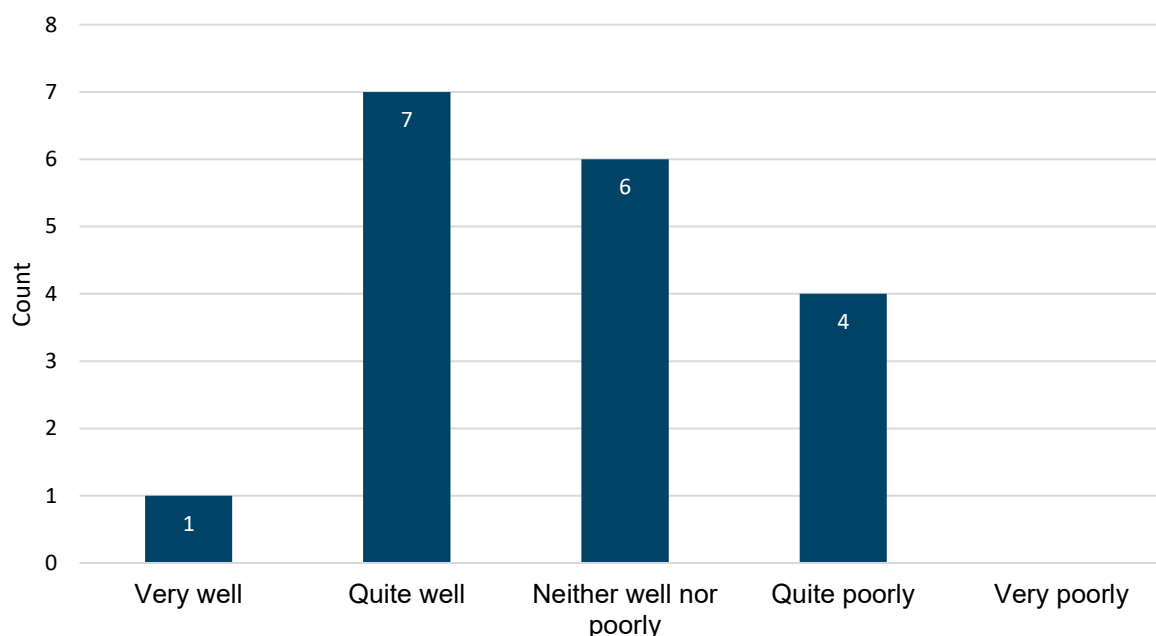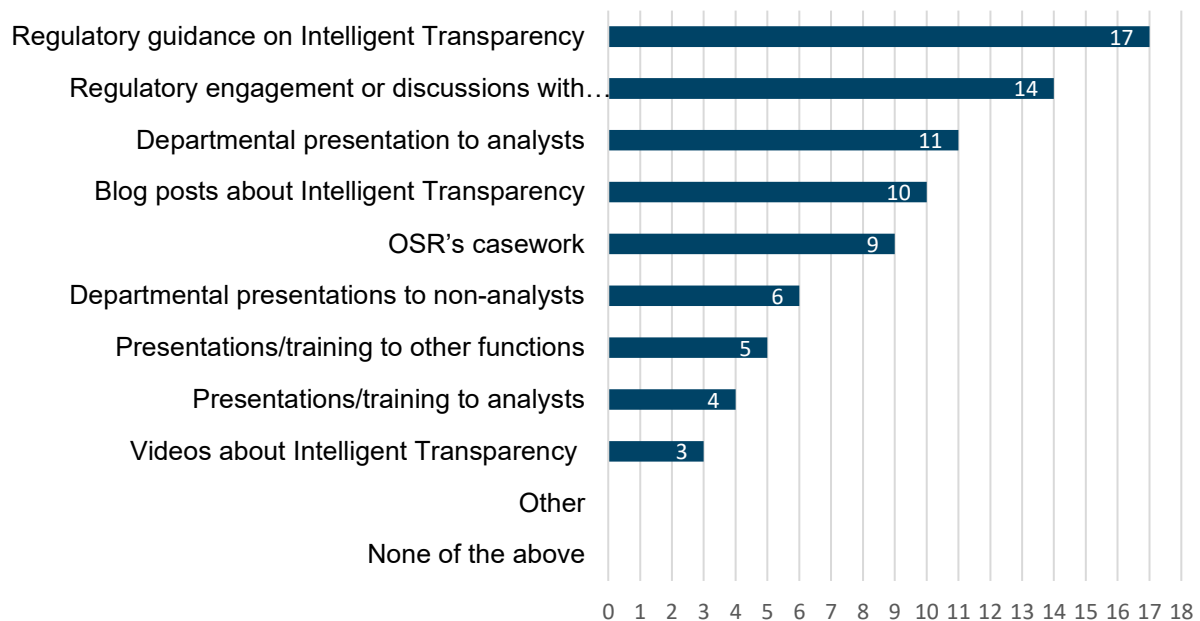

Support for Intelligent Transparency

Question 5: OSR uses multiple approaches to support Intelligent Transparency. Which of the following OSR approaches have you and your department found helpful? Please select all that apply. (multiple select, mandatory)

Regarding OSR's approaches to supporting intelligent transparency, 17 respondents indicated that they found regulatory guidance on intelligent transparency helpful. This was the most selected option amongst respondents. The next most common selection was discussions with OSR, which 14 respondents found helpful.

Blogs and OSR's casework were also popular, with these options being chosen 10 and 9 times, respectively.

Only three respondents found videos on intelligent transparency helpful.

Figure 8. OSR uses multiple approaches to support Intelligent Transparency. Which of the following OSR approaches have you and your department found helpful?

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Regulatory guidance on Intelligent Transparency	17
Regulatory engagement or discussions with…	14
Departmental presentation to analysts	11
Blog posts about Intelligent Transparency	10
OSR's casework	9
Departmental presentations to non-analysts	6
Presentations/training to other functions	5
Presentations/training to analysts	4
Videos about Intelligent Transparency	3
Other	
None of the above	

Question 6: Some departments have additional resources, guidance and tools for Intelligent Transparency beyond what OSR provides. What support for Intelligent Transparency is available in your department? Please think of support both for members of your profession and beyond. (free text, mandatory)

Respondents described a variety of additional resources, guidance and tools that they used to support intelligent transparency beyond what OSR provides. Specific types of support mentioned included:

- presentations and sessions (including those targeted to all staff, as well as separate sessions targeted specifically at analysts and also non-analysts)
- guidance (such as on intranets or SharePoint, sometimes described as 'extensive')
- support from HoP office or a central statistics team
- a 'control of statistics' group, which included representatives from all analytical teams to monitor misuse of statistics
- external training (such as from Full Fact)

Not all respondents indicated that they had access additional support beyond what OSR offers, with some explicitly highlighting that there was no additional guidance or material available in their department.

Question 7: What other support from OSR, if any, would help you and your department with Intelligent Transparency? (free text, mandatory)

Respondents mentioned many ways in which OSR could further support departments with intelligent transparency. Specific types of support mentioned included:

- Wanting to see positive examples of intelligent transparency in practice. This has led us to reach out to departments to identify and develop the case studies included in this report.

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- More help pushing intelligent transparency to senior levels within departments.
- Improving our regulatory guidance so that it is clearer and more consistent – we recently refreshed our guidance as part of the launch of the third edition of the Code of Practice for Statistics (the Code).

It was also reassuring to hear that several HoPs were happy with the current support from OSR and stated that they want to see this level of support continued.

Question 8: In your department, which of the following groups do you believe require the most support with Intelligent Transparency? Please select up to three groups. (multiple select, mandatory)

- Responses to this survey describe special advisers and communications colleagues as the groups needing the most support with intelligent transparency. These options were chosen 14 and 13 times, respectively.
- Respondents also indicated that to improve the adoption of intelligent transparency, there needs to be more buy-in from special advisers, communication professionals, senior civil servants and ministers.

Figure 9. In your department, which of the following groups do you believe require the most support with Intelligent Transparency?
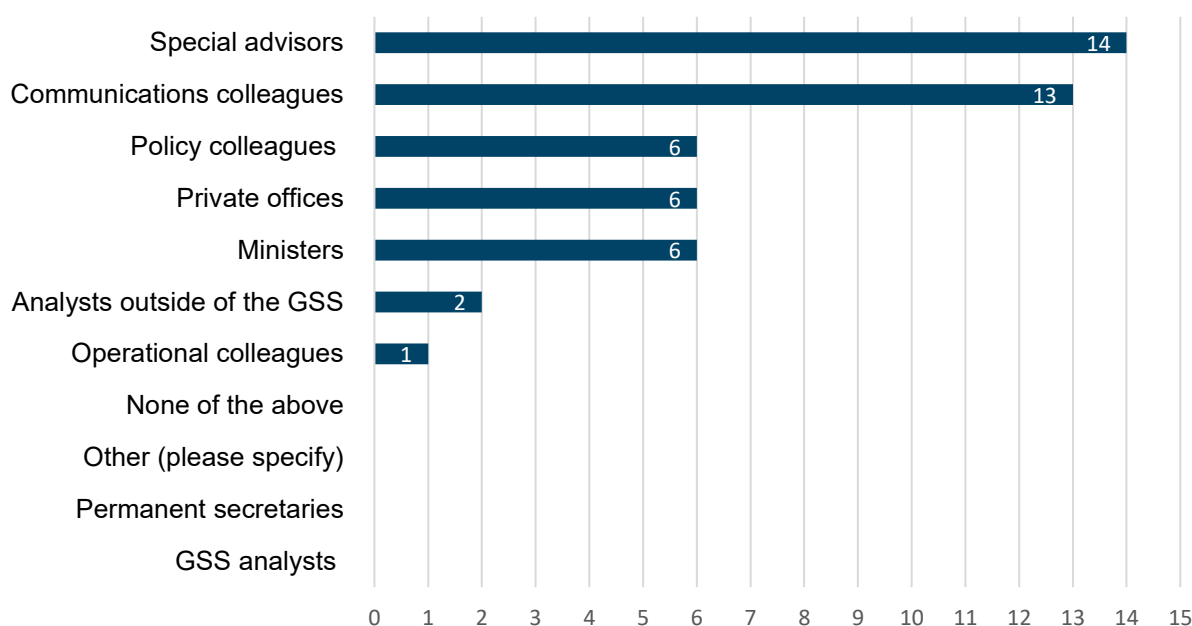
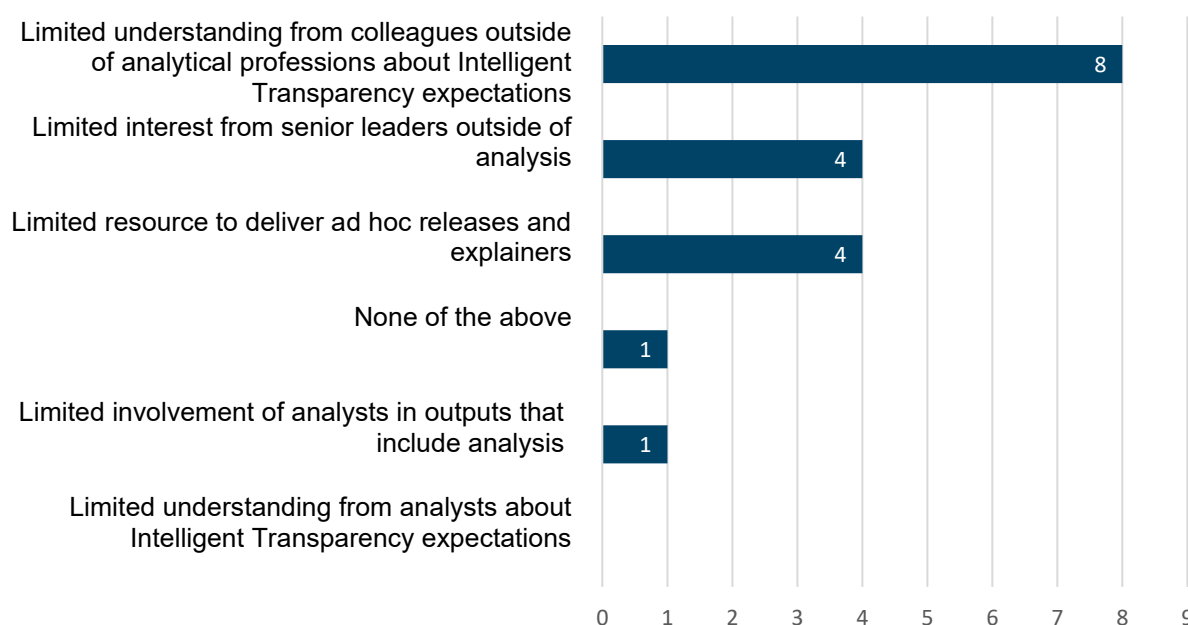## Your barriers to Intelligent Transparency

Question 9: Which of the following barriers to Intelligent Transparency does your department currently experience? You will have an opportunity to share additional barriers later in the survey. (multiple select, mandatory)

- The most selected barriers to adhering to intelligent transparency were "limited understanding outside of analytical professions", "limited interest from senior leaders" and "limited resource to produce ad hoc releases". This aligns with the

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results in figure 9, showing that it is non-analytical colleagues whom respondents perceive as needing the most support.

- However, there was not a clear majority of respondents who all experience the same barrier, as only 8 out of 18 selected the most common response.

Figure 10. Which of the following barriers to Intelligent Transparency does your department currently experience?

Question 10: What other barriers to Intelligent Transparency, if any, does your department currently experience? Please think of barriers to both members of your profession and beyond. (free text, mandatory)

A large and diverse range of barriers to intelligent transparency were identified in the responses to this question. The types of barriers mentioned also varied between departments, highlighting that different departments are facing different challenges. Some barriers highlighted include:

- Resource implications for departments, especially departments with administrative data that are of interest to ministers. Some respondents indicated that they can struggle to meet the demand for ad hoc requests for statistics.
- Limited understanding of intelligent transparency and statisticians or analysts not being involved in all outputs that involve analysis.
- Cultural barriers that discourage transparency.
- The phrase 'intelligent transparency' not being intuitive and obvious in its meaning – for this reason we chose not use the phrase 'intelligent transparency' in the title of the new standards included in the third edition of the Code.

Future OSR Work

Question 11: How supportive or unsupportive would you be of OSR publishing an annual report card about your department? (single select, mandatory)

- Respondents' views on a potential intelligent transparency report card were very mixed. More respondents indicated that they were "very unsupportive" of the proposal than "very supportive", with scores of four and one, respectively. However, "quite supportive" was the most popular answer, with a third of respondents indicating that they feel this way. Just under a third indicated that they are neither supportive nor unsupportive.

Figure 11. How supportive or unsupportive would you be of OSR publishing an annual report card about your department?
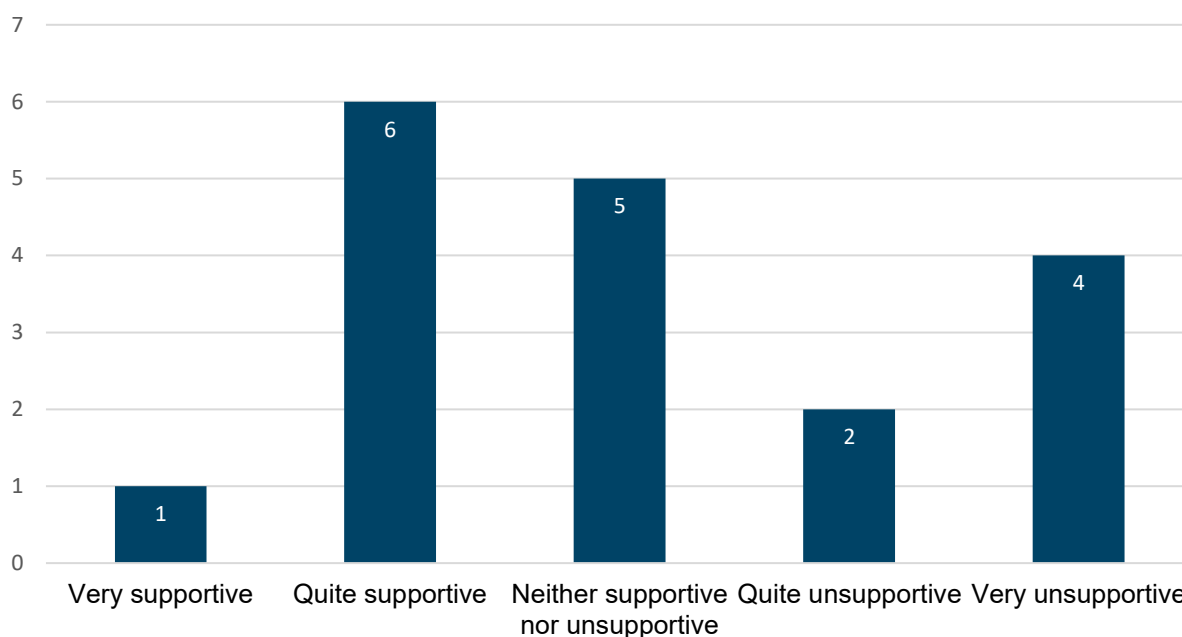

Figure 1

Question 12: If we published a report card about your department, what challenges or concerns, if any, would you like to make us aware of? (free text, optional)

Though this question was optional, 14 respondents chose to provide an answer. Respondents described a variety of challenges and concerns:

- Some respondents stated that they are worried about potential reputational damage that could be caused by the introduction of report cards.
- Concerns were raised about the resource demands of implementing intelligent transparency in relation to public gain.
- If report cards are implemented, some respondents indicated that they would like department-specific challenges and constraints to be recognised.
- There were general concerns around what the report card would look like or how arm's length bodies would be included.

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- From a department whose representative indicated it is supportive of report cards, the respondent mentioned that report cards could be a good way to drive up awareness of intelligent transparency.

Additional information

Question 13: We are grateful for your expertise in helping us understand and develop our Intelligent Transparency campaign. What other information, if anything, would you like to tell us about this topic? (free text, optional)

When asked for general thoughts, respondents indicated they would like guidance on intelligent transparency from OSR to be clearer or profession-specific. Some respondents also raised that the language of intelligent transparency should be changed. Another theme mentioned repeated previous comments about raising the profile of intelligent transparency with senior leaders.

Annex C: Review of press releases

Key information for interpreting these findings

This is the first exercise of this kind that OSR has conducted. The review is intended to provide an illustrative overview of the extent to which press releases cite sources for statistics – a key element of the second principle of intelligent transparency. The findings presented here are explorative and **do not constitute a formal OSR regulatory judgement**. It is important to note that there is a level of subjectivity present in this exercise, and it should not be considered an exact science. It is also important to note that if a citation and/or link to the source was not identified, this does not necessarily mean that the underlying analysis is not published.

Method

We identified all press releases published by departments in scope of this review between 14 and 20 July 2025 (see Annex A). The press releases were taken from the following sources:

- **UK government departments:** Press releases were sourced through GOV.UK. At the time of the exercise, it was not possible to filter specifically by press releases, and so we determined those in scope through manual checking for those marked as 'Press Release' just above the article title. Outputs with other labels, such as 'news' or 'correspondence', were not included in the sample.
- **Welsh Government:** Press releases were identified through the Announcements page with a filter applied for 'press releases'.
- **Scottish Government:** Press releases were identified as those listed as 'new' on the News page.
- **Northern Ireland:** Press releases were taken from the dedicated Press Release page.

Definitions

As this is intended to be an explorative exercise, we have taken a broad definition of what constitutes a reference to 'statistics' as well as what was considered to be a source. There is a level of subjectivity in this exercise, and we acknowledge that some departments have identified a different number of statistics than we did in our review. This does not change our overall findings at the aggregate level, which was the intended purpose of this work. The next section sets out how we identified statistics to include in our review.

References to data and statistics

We judged something to be a reference to statistics if the statement either directly quoted a figure or if it was a statement that was based on an underlying calculation or piece of analysis. Statements were not considered in scope if they referenced funding announcements or numbers that were not based on underlying analysis.

The number of references to statistics and data identified within each press release is based on the number of unique claims rather than the total number of references within a press release. By this, we mean that if a specific claim is used multiple times in a press release, it will only be counted once in this analysis.

Some examples of statements that we considered to be a reference to data or statistics:

- "More than 50 million meals have been served since the introduction of Universal Primary Free School Meals."
- "Research published alongside the Green Paper today also highlights the important role the Post Office still plays in the daily lives of people and businesses, adding social value of around £5.2 billion per year to households."
- "With two-thirds of adults in England currently overweight or living with obesity"

Some examples of statements that we did not consider to be a reference to data or statistics:

- "More than 170 hospices across England will receive a share of the funding"
- "Today's action will lower the Crude Oil Price Cap from $60 barrel to $47.60 directly hitting Russia's oil revenues"
- "Chancellor launches new £500m Fund to break down barriers to opportunity"

Source

We judged the press release to be providing a source if the origin of the underlying analysis was mentioned. We also accepted references to the organisation that had produced the analysis where it indicated an underlying report. We recognise that this should not be considered the gold standard in providing a source.

Examples of sources that had been provided:

- "This year's report showed that the majority of airports assessed were performing either in the 'good' or 'very good' category."
- "The 153rd Open will be the largest ever sporting event held in Northern Ireland and is expected to generate more than £213million in total economic benefit, according to an independent forecast by the Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) at Sheffield Hallam University."
- "Last August, Scotland was the first nation in the UK to introduce another new RSV vaccine, Abrysvo, for pregnant women and older adults - more than 70% of eligible older adults took up the offer, leading to a Public Health Scotland study, published in the Lancet, showing a 62% reduction in RSV related hospitalisations among this group."

Links

We considered that a link was provided if there was a hyperlink to the statistical or analytical output that provided the figures in question.

Findings

We identified 80 press releases across 17 different departments. Of these, 47 press releases were identified as containing references to statistics, with 209 unique references. Of these 209 references, 36 (17%) cited the source and 18 (9%) provided a direct link to the source.

To support transparency, the full analysis of the 80 press releases identified in our review can be found on our website. This should not be used to form the basis for further analysis. Where press releases were produced by multiple departments, we have just listed the lead department. Departments may appear more than once if they published more than one press release during the relevant period.