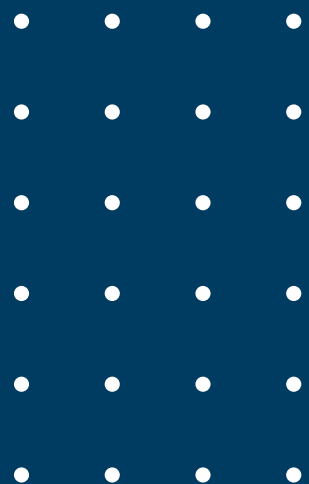




Office for
Statistics Regulation

Office for Statistics Regulation Annual Report

2025/26



Year in brief

In November 2025, we published our strategy: [How we will strengthen trust and confidence in statistics: 2026–2029](#). The strategy recognised that:

The next three years represent a watershed time for the UK statistical system. Demand for timely, trustworthy and high-quality statistics has never been greater, while public confidence in official figures, and in public institutions more generally, faces clear threats.

Statistics should serve everyone, helping enhance knowledge about every section of society and the economy, and people's place within them. However, they must do so in today's challenging environment, where fears about misinformation prosper.

Moreover, after a challenging period, the UK's biggest producer of statistics, the Office for National Statistics (ONS), is focusing on implementing a recovery plan in the face of ongoing issues with the quality of some of its economic statistics.

In this climate, the need for a credible and rigorous Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) is not just significant – it is essential.

2025/2026 has been a pivotal year setting us up to face this challenge. We have put in place key building blocks that will serve the statistical system well in the next few years, including the launch of the new Code of Practice for Statistics version 3.0, which represents a significant opportunity to support confidence in public statistics. The new Code is clearer, more direct, more user-focused and more supportive of analysts.

Credible and rigorous regulator

We published 22 compliance reviews, including 8 in-depth assessments, awarding new and continued accreditations where standards were met and suspending or cancelling accreditation where they were not. We improved the clarity and transparency of our regulatory work with new reporting formats that communicate our judgements more directly and unambiguously. We published guidance for producers and launched a self-evaluation tool to help teams apply the refreshed Code of Practice. We also began developing a new prioritisation approach to manage regulatory risk and target our resources more effectively.

System catalyst

We supported improvement across the statistical system by launching Code of Practice for Statistics 3.0 and publishing guidance to help producers apply it in practice. Through our State of the Statistical System report and major systemic reviews, including our review of ONS economic statistics and our work on UK-wide comparability, we identified key risks, highlighted progress and set out priorities for change. We also promoted excellence and shared good practice across the system through extensive engagement and our annual award for statistical excellence.

Public use of statistics

We championed the appropriate use of statistics in public debate by embedding intelligent transparency within the refreshed Code and promoting the new Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis. Through our casework, election guidance and public interventions, we challenged misuse and supported more transparent communication of statistics across government and public life. Our research on trust in official statistics also strengthened the evidence base for how confidence in statistics can be built and maintained.

Enhance our own TQV

We invested in strengthening our own trustworthiness, quality and value (TQV) so that we continue to model the standards we expect of others. This included publishing our new strategy, strengthening oversight and risk management, expanding our team and capability, and improving learning, induction and leadership development. We also increased our focus on digital engagement and evaluation, including setting out a clearer framework for assessing our impact and supporting continuous improvement.



In 2025/26, we have set foundations for our 2026-2029 strategy, that will serve the statistical system over the strategy period. Our work has aimed to strengthen accountability, improvement and transparency across the statistical system. Our regulatory judgements, refreshed Code, systemic reviews and public interventions have helped improve practice and supported better use of statistics in public debate. Together, this has reinforced OSR's role in strengthening trust and confidence in statistics for the public good.

Credible and rigorous regulator

What we did

Our strategic aim is to be a credible and rigorous regulator, making clear, evidenced-based and strongly communicated judgements against the Code of Practice for Statistics, and ensuring that statistics producers effectively implement our requirements.

In 2025/26 we published:

- 22 compliance reviews against the Code, including 8 in-depth assessments
- 5 new accreditations
- 7 continuations of existing accreditations
- 2 reaccreditations
- 23 cancelled or suspended accreditations

In spring 2025, we improved how we present lighter-touch reviews, by replacing our usual letters with standard summary templates. This approach, informed by feedback from a public panel, communicates our judgements more directly and unambiguously, allowing for better follow-up and improved clarity and accessibility of our reporting.

To address the increasing number of statistics that we have not reviewed in some time, we began developing a prioritisation tool. Following a successful prototype phase, including triaging around 70 sets of statistics, we will pilot the approach with stakeholders before launching it later in 2026/27.

To help producers assess how well their statistics meet the refreshed Code (launched in late 2025), and to help us manage risks in areas we have not been able to review formally, we made [a self-evaluation tool](#). The tool can also be used by anyone producing data or analysis to help them reflect on their statistics' compliance. We are supporting uptake through a webinar and learning pack, and early interest has been strong.

Case examples

Assessment and new OS accreditation – NHS England cancer waiting times statistics

In June 2018, the UK Prime Minister asked the National Medical Director of NHS England and NHS Improvement to review the NHS standards for accessing cancer diagnosis and treatment. NHS England publicly consulted on proposed new standards, which then came into effect in October 2023. NHS England made several changes to its official statistics following the introduction of the new standards and requested that OSR conduct a full assessment of the new statistics. Our assessment identified four requirements that must be met before the statistics could be accredited. These requirements included publishing a development plan and comprehensive information about quality and methods, improving the presentation of the statistics, and exploring publishing more granular data. In December 2025, OSR welcomed the actions NHS England had taken to address the four requirements and confirmed that the statistics comply with the Code and should be labelled as Accredited Official Statistics.

De-accreditation – Statistics from the Wealth and Assets survey

In June 2025, OSR suspended the official statistics status of the Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) following quality concerns identified in its review, alongside a request by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) who produce the statistics. The decision was prompted after a comprehensive review by OSR found that declining response rates and a lack of investment have significantly impacted the quality of the survey data, which measures the financial wellbeing of households across Great Britain. The assessment report identified that despite ONS's efforts to mitigate pandemic impacts, the statistics "are no longer of sufficient value or quality to meet users' needs" and therefore no longer comply with the Code. OSR set out 5 requirements that ONS must meet to regain accreditation and ONS provided a progress update in December 2025.

Assessment of new OS producer, first assessment under new Code – Medr statistics on higher education, further education, apprenticeships and adult community learning in Wales

Medr was established in August 2024 as an arm's length body of the Welsh Government. Medr took over a range of responsibilities from the Welsh Government, including the production of official statistics on higher education, further education, apprenticeships and adult community learning. In July 2025, following the change in producer organisation, and because Medr was a new official statistics producer, we agreed to carry out an assessment of Medr's statistics. In March 2026, we published our assessment report with seven requirements to strengthen the statistics – OSR's first published assessment against our refreshed Code (Code 3.0). The requirements for Medr focus on publishing statistical policies and statements, improving data quality and expanding quality information, being more transparent about methods where sex and gender identity data are combined, and prioritising website developments. We also recognise that Medr has established a strong foundation as a new official statistics producer and identified many areas of good practice during our assessment. We expect Medr to meet the requirements by March 2027 and to regularly update us on its progress.



Testimonials



The journey to becoming producers of an accredited official statistic

Recently, Skills for Care underwent an assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) that resulted in the accreditation of its workforce statistics. I've personally learnt a lot during this assessment process; it's changed the way we work as a team and as a wider organisation.

The first step was working with OSR colleagues in 2022 to formally acknowledge our voluntary adoption of elements of the Code of Practice for Statistics, namely the three core principles of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value. Then in 2023, Skills for Care was added to The Official Statistics Order 2023, making us a producer of official statistics – hooray! The third and final step came during 2024 and 2025: this was the assessment process to determine whether the 'The workforce employed by adult social services departments in England' report could become an accredited official statistic. The report finally became an accredited official statistic in February 2025 – a huge achievement both for the team and for the wider organisation.

Skills for Care has fully embraced being an official statistics producer. The organisation does a lot more than just data analysis, but the lessons learnt from our user research sessions and documentation spurred on from the OSR assessment process are driving other changes. Our official statistics producer status is helping to drive our internal data strategy, and more conversations are taking place about use of data in different teams. The Marketing team is also looking to upgrade Skills for Care's other websites and using user research information and examples from the Workforce Intelligence website as part of this. This will ultimately mean all users and partners of Skills for Care will have an improved experience, and it's lovely to see our hard work being championed by other teams across the organisation.

Natalie Fleming

Analysis team leader in Workforce Intelligence
at Skills for Care

(Excerpts from [Guest Blog](#), March 2026)

System catalyst

What we did

We will be a system catalyst, identifying key cross-cutting issues to drive improvement and ensuring statistics meet user needs in a resource-constrained world. We are doing this by providing insight to support, influence and guide; raising systemic issues; monitoring and sharing best practice; and drawing attention to emerging innovations and emerging risks.

Two major pieces of work provide this support: the Code of Practice, which guides OSR's regulatory work, and our annual State of the Statistical System (SOSS) report, which identifies risks, good practice and important issues across the statistical system. In 2025-26, our SOSS report focused on ONS's economic statistics, and the comparability of UK statistics.

In October 2025, we released [The Code of Practice for Statistics 3.0](#), following extensive stakeholder consultation. During its launch, we spoke at 42 sessions, reaching nearly 3000 people across events. We talked to government analysts, users and other stakeholders, including bodies outside of government who are considering applying the Code voluntarily. Our Code website had 12,876 active users and 83,526 user engagements in 2025/26.

Our [6th annual award for Statistical Excellence in Trustworthiness, Quality and Value](#), hosted in partnership with the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and Civil Service World, was awarded to Mental Health Innovations (MHI).

Case examples

ONS Economic Statistics Review

In July 2024 [we initiated a systemic review](#) of economic statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). We published an [interim report](#) in April 2025, and a [final report](#) in November 2025.

The review identified significant concerns including around data quality and transparency of prioritisation and set urgent requirements for ONS's recovery.

At our request, ONS has published two quarterly progress updates, and we have publicly responded. The latest update demonstrates genuine and welcome progress and recognised signs of stabilisation, greater transparency, stronger governance and more proactive engagement with users. However, critical challenges and risks remain, and are transparently acknowledged by ONS, particularly in respect of sustaining quality, delivering the Transformed Labour Force Survey, implementing the new Statistical Business Register, and fully recovering response rates across social surveys.





Comparability

Our [review of the adequacy of UK-wide comparable statistics and data](#) provides a framework that will help the UK statistical system address the demand for UK-wide comparable statistics and data on priority topics.

The review was carried out in response to a recommendation in the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC)'s report [Transforming the UK's Evidence Base](#), which set out the challenges and opportunities in obtaining comparable data across the four nations of the UK. This issue was also covered in detail in the [Independent Review of the UK Statistics Authority](#), led by Professor Denise Lievesley. In addition, two of the four high-level priorities identified by users at the UK Statistics Assembly relate to improving the comparability of data and statistics. These reviews, and the views of users expressed at the [UK Statistics Assembly](#), clearly set out the need for change.

Our review provides recommendations and a framework to help the Government Statistical Service (GSS), led by the Inter-Administration Committee (IAC), to deliver a step change in providing UK-wide comparable statistics and data on agreed priority topics.

Since publication, the review [has informed the Government's response to Recommendation 5 of the Independent Review of the UK Statistics Authority](#). It has provided regulatory evidence on the challenges in achieving UK-wide comparable statistics and data, supporting action now underway across the statistical system led by the UK Statistics Authority.

Testimonials



The Code is the essential foundation for our statistical system, underpinning the public trust society relies on by clearly communicating what matters when working with data, and driving up standards.

It's genuinely encouraging to see how many of the issues raised in [two dedicated roundtables with the OSR] are reflected in the revised Code, including the need for stronger user engagement. This direct line from member input to policy change shows the strength and influence of the statistical community when we speak together. We also submitted a formal response to the consultation, underlining our call for users to be placed at the heart of decision-making.

Dr Sarah Cumbers

CEO of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS)
(Excerpts from Guest Blog, November 2025)

Rather than seeing the Code as telling us what we can't do, I see it as an enabler to tell us what we can. In other words, it is a key that facilitates the practical release of statistics that provide value for society rather than a lock that prevents us from being responsive and innovative. And this is equally true for the existing version of the Code of Practice and the draft [Code 3.0](#).



Paul Matthews

Head of Profession for Statistics,
Scottish Government
(Excerpts from [Guest Blog](#), March 2026)



“The Code is really important in underpinning the importance of statistics that are trustworthy, and that’s essential for our democracy.” For Denise, the Code is also a practical tool: “I use it in an advocacy role because I’m trying to ensure that people understand why statistics are critical, the relationship between trust and trustworthiness, and what we do when something goes wrong.”

Denise comments on this development: “I value the new version because it highlights the importance of users and recognises that trust in statistics is a shared responsibility across the wider community.”

Denise Lievesley

CBE

(Excerpts from [Guest Blog](#), March 2026)



Public use of statistics

What we did

We aim to champion the public use of statistics, standing up for the appropriate use of statistics in the public domain and forming partnerships with actors who support the integrity of evidence. Our goal is to ensure statistics are communicated in line with the [Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis](#).

Through our casework function, we promote, monitor and safeguard official statistics, and challenge their misuse. In 2025/26, we considered 167 cases. Cases took an average of 30 days to close, with a median closure time of 22 days. Our [annual casework report for 2024/25](#) highlights several key themes for casework this year.

OSR's interventions deliver tangible impact. For example, in October 2025, we intervened on public commentary on [comparisons between England and Scotland's water industry regulation](#). Our intervention received coverage in several media outlets and was cited in parliamentary discussion.

We have supported the adoption of the new [Standards for Public Use](#) across different government professions and the wider public sector. The standards set out how statistics, data and wider analysis should be communicated by public bodies in the public domain, based on the concept of [intelligent transparency](#).

Our research function delivered a [report on trust in official statistics](#), which provides a conceptual analysis of trust, examines levels of trust in various actors and objects, and draws conclusions and recommendations about building trust in official statistics. The report also includes original research on what might increase trust in official statistics.

Case examples

Intelligent Transparency and the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis

In November 2025, following the launch of Code 3.0, we published our [Intelligent transparency: 2025 review](#). We found that while there has been good progress embedding intelligent transparency within ministerial departments and devolved governments of the UK, intelligent transparency is still not the default approach. To change this, and improve compliance with the Standards for Public Use, we made six recommendations including improving the citation of sources when figures are used in public communications, making public commitments to intelligent transparency, embedding and promoting guidance and training across government professions and within Number 10, and preventing and promptly addressing misuse.

Since the review we have received had multiple letters voicing support for and commitment to the Standards for Public Use from ministerial departments and devolved governments. Significant steps have also been taken to embed and promote the Standards for Public Use in Number 10, [including new training for special advisors and the introduction of a new Chief Analyst role within Number 10](#).





2026 Elections

In May 2026, elections to the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru (Welsh Parliament) and local election in England were held. In preparation, a [dedicated webpage](#) was developed to bring together our new and existing guidance to help users navigate statistical claims surrounding an election and to support those working with statistics in upholding the Code of Practice for Statistics. The webpage includes our updated series of election explainer statements (15 in total) on topics including health, the economy and migration. These draw on our experience of investigating the use of statistics in public debate and have been refreshed to reflect issues particularly relevant to Scotland and Wales. By the end of the elections on 7 May, our election pages had collectively been viewed more than 1,800 times.

During the pre-election period we published a [Statement on Understanding NHS planned care waiting times statistics across the UK](#) to address widespread misuse of these statistics, which was picked up and drawn on by several media outlets; secured a correction to a statistic relating to greenhouse gas emissions in the SNP manifesto; and wrote to several parties privately about their use of statistics in leaflets and or public discourse. All our interventions during the pre-election period were underpinned by our [interventions policy](#), which guides our work on making statements on the use of statistics in public debate.

Testimonials



I have recently had to update my slides with the new [Code of Practice for Statistics 3.0](#). This rightly keeps to the basic core principles of TQV, which continue to form the basis for standards for official statistics. But I have been delighted to see the introduction of [Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis](#). These focus on the way that statistics are communicated and used in public life and are rooted in the idea of 'intelligent transparency' – incidentally another term introduced by Onora O'Neill. This includes equality of access and independence, but also enhancing understanding, which is my main interest.

David Spiegelhalter

Statistician

(Excerpts from [Guest Blog](#), March 2026)



Enhance our own TQV

What we did

As a regulator, OSR must exemplify the standards we expect of others. Focusing on our own TQV helps us practise what we preach and supports our organisational ambition. Enhancing our TQV includes maintaining our independence and separation from producers of statistics (T); enhancing our capability, processes and quality culture (Q); and increasing the effectiveness of our public engagement and how we measure and enhance our impact (V). This helps ensure that we remain a credible, capable and responsive regulator – one that not only holds others to account but is also accountable to others.

Trustworthiness

Management assurance

We published our multi-year strategy in November 2025: [How we will strengthen trust and confidence in statistics: 2026–2029](#). Our Portfolio Review Board (PRB) provides oversight of the delivery and evaluation of the strategy and supporting business plans, our rolling regulatory work programme, finance and resource management, and risk management. We report to Regulation Committee on our performance and publish Annual Reports as an annex to the UK Statistics Authority Annual Report and Accounts, and separately on our website.

Financial assurance

OSR delivered an approximate 6-per-cent underspend for 2025/26.

Risk assurance

OSR has identified a series of strategic risks which are managed closely by our senior leadership team and are reported to each meeting of PRB with a status report and RAG rating for review and challenge, and twice a year to Regulation Committee. Projects and Programmes have delegated authority to manage risk, but we have established mechanisms to escalate risk to PRB via the SLT Sponsor where advice or closer management is required.

- **Independence:** we are perceived by stakeholders not to be able to operate independently
- **Relevance:** we lack credibility as a regulator by not understanding the context we operate within
- **Voice:** we do not say the right thing at the right time through our interventions and judgements

- **Transformation:** our work is deemed insufficient to mitigate risks facing the statistical system
- **Capability:** we do not have the skills and tools to mature as a regulator and uphold the Code
- **Capacity:** we do not have the people capacity to meet evolving demands on us as a regulator

Against this framework, OSR's risk profile remains stable but continues to be shaped by a small number of key pressures. Demand for regulation is increasing in both scale and complexity, and while recent improvements in funding, prioritisation and recruitment are strengthening our position, capacity remains a risk. Alongside this, risks linked to the performance and transformation of official statistics, particularly in relation to ONS, have reduced compared with previous periods but remain elevated given the scale of ongoing change and continued quality concerns.

Our capability as a regulator is stable and gradually improving, supported by investment in people, tools and ways of working, although some areas remain stretched. Risks around independence, relevance and voice are actively managed and well controlled but continue to require close attention given the high-profile and sometimes contested environment in which we operate.

Overall, the direction of travel is positive, with targeted mitigations in place, but delivery continues to depend on careful prioritisation to ensure we can meet growing expectations of the statistical system.

Audits and reviews

An internal audit of the processes governing the suspension of official statistics reported in September 2025. This audit was in response to changes in the accreditation status of important ONS official statistics. The report found the risk management and control to be adequate and effective but made some recommendations to ONS and to OSR for improvement. For OSR, this emphasised that we should use as standard the documentation published to support the deaccreditation of the Wealth and Assets Survey. In response to this audit, we have also published a [guide to the suspension and cancellation of accreditation](#) in March 2026.

Quality

Our people - capacity and capability

We are a team of around 50 people working across the UK, based in UK Statistics Authority offices with primary locations in Newport, Edinburgh and London and a team presence in Titchfield, Darlington and, from 2025/26, Manchester.

Our baseline budget for 2026/27 is £4 million, including an extra £0.6 million approved by the UK Statistics Authority Board in July 2025 following Spending Review 2025. This funding has supported recruitment of six SEO/HEO Statistics Regulators, an SEO Statistical Standards Advisor and an SEO Data Scientist.

OSR runs a regular skills survey, completed by all staff with their line manager. In 2025/26, we improved it to align more closely with job profiles and a new regulator skills matrix. We delivered a wide-ranging learning programme this year. A major focus was training on the new Code, helping regulators apply it confidently and support producers. We also worked with Security and Information Management teams on areas including security awareness, phishing, and the security and ethical implications of AI. In addition, we contributed to the Civil Service One Big Thing 2025 theme, 'AI for all', with sessions on automation, public attitudes to data and AI, large language models, AI quality in official statistics and Copilot prompting.

Two major developments were a comprehensive learning programme for regulators, led by senior leaders and experienced staff, and a standardised induction with modular learning, a planner, and guidance for managers and new starters. We strengthened the talent pipeline through a Leadership Development Programme with six-monthly cohorts, Grade 7 learning on senior leadership, temporary promotion opportunities, regular career conversations and support for loan opportunities. Despite this, our People Survey showed only 51% positive responses on career development in OSR, and the Senior Leadership Team will consider how to improve this.

Overall, our People Survey results compare favourably with the wider Authority and Civil Service, with an engagement score of 76% in 2025, up from 72% in 2024. We have worked with our Wellbeing and Development Committee and the team to understand weaker areas and develop an action plan.

Value

Digital engagement

The OSR website had 97,000 sessions initiated in 2025/26 compared with 113,000 sessions the previous year. Our Code website has 31,000 sessions initiated. Outputs with the highest views and engagement across the two sites included our report on the quality of Police recorded crime statistics for England and Wales, and the associated blog - Understanding the complexities of crime statistics.

We had 122,000 impressions (views) on X. Highest numbers of impressions were for a post sharing that we had written to the Covid-19 inquiry regarding the presentation of statistical modelling in the Executive Summary of its Module 2 report.

Posts have generated 70,000 impressions on LinkedIn, compared with 33,000 impressions in 2024/25. The highest number of impressions was for a video of our Director General giving evidence to PACAC:

Today, Ed Humpherson, Head of Office for Statistics Regulation gave evidence to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee as they consider propriety, ethics and the wider standards landscape in the UK. He highlighted “statistics are part of the lifeblood of democracy if they’re used well. If they’re misused, they become slop, they become misinformation, and that can be an important driver of mistrust. And as a standards-based regulator, we set the standards to ensure that statistics are used well, and we step in when they’re not used well.”

This year we initiated the redevelopment the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) website – for launch later in 2026 - upgrading to the WordPress Gutenberg editor. Integrating the Code of Practice within the main website ensures clearer, more direct access to the Code and related guidance, and we are making compliance judgements and progress updates more accessible.

Evaluating our impact

The [OSR Evaluation Strategy](#) published in May 2026 sets out how we will monitor and report progress against the commitments in the OSR Strategy. It provides a transparent and proportionate approach to evaluating our work across the four strategic themes and has three components: a Theory of Change linking our activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts; key performance indicators; and stakeholder feedback.

In 2026/27 we will develop a stakeholder survey to gather feedback from producers, users and partners across the statistical system alongside our quantitative indicators. This will help us understand how OSR’s outputs, such as regulatory judgements, guidance and engagement, are perceived and whether they are supporting stakeholders as intended.

Forward look

Plan-on-a-page 2026/27

Statistics should serve the public good

Credible and rigorous regulator – Making clear and strongly communicated judgements against the Code

We will provide clear, well-evidenced judgements against the Code of Practice and ensure producers act on our requirements. In 2026/27 we will:

- focus reviews on areas of greatest public interest and data quality risk
- follow up on key requirements from recent regulatory work
- implement a new prioritisation and triage approach for older, unreviewed statistics
- develop self-evaluation tools for producers, including an updated review model and automated TQV checklist
- promote public engagement to strengthen transparency and trust in statistics

System catalyst

We will drive systemwide improvement by identifying cross-cutting issues and supporting better, more-responsive statistics. In 2026/27 we will:

- deliver targeted systemic and topic-based reviews – for example, on water quality – and undertake risk-based cross-cutting reviews
- follow up on major recommendations and support producers to embed Code 3.0 and the Standards for Public Use

Public use of statistics

We will champion the transparent and appropriate use of statistics in the public domain, stepping in where necessary to uphold the Standards for Public Use. In 2026/27 we will:

- challenge the public misuse of statistics through our interventions.
- promote and embed the Standards for Public Use through a continuous campaign and targeted support
- review and report on progress against the recommendations from our 2025 Intelligent Transparency review
- explore new regulatory approaches, including automation, to monitor compliance
- deliver research on trust, public value and the role of official statistics to strengthen public confidence

Enhance our own TQV

We will maintain our independence, quality culture and public value by embedding TQV across our operations. In 2026/27 we will:

- develop a framework for impartiality and independence
- launch a refreshed People Plan with refreshed induction and training
- continue to define our voice, broaden stakeholder engagement, enhance the accessibility of our outputs and digital channels, and explore automation and artificial intelligence (AI) to improve efficiency and impact
- develop an evaluation strategy, efficiency framework and register of recommendations



OSR publications in 2025/26

Assessments (8)

An assessment is a review conducted when a producer has requested the accreditation of official statistics. Compliance with all standards and practices of the Code's Standards for Official Statistics is reviewed. We published 8 Assessment Reports:

- Review of the UK Trade statistics (ONS)
 - 2021 Census in England and Wales: Phase 3 (ONS)
 - Wealth and Assets Survey (ONS)
 - Statistics about Cancer Waiting Times in England (NHS England)
 - Public Transport Statistics Northern Ireland (Department for Infrastructure, NI)
 - NHS Workforce in Scotland (NHS Education Scotland)
 - Statistics on Higher Education, Further Education, Apprenticeships and Adult Community Learning in Wales (Medr)
 - Domestic Abuse Estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (ONS)
-

Suspension of OS Accreditation (23)

Accredited official statistics can have their accreditation suspended or cancelled, if substantial non-compliance with the standards of the Code of Practice for Statistics is identified. OSR will issue an improvement notice to the producer of the statistics, detailing the areas to be addressed. We suspended 23 sets of statistics in 2025/26:

- Levels of Highest Qualification Held by Working Age Adults (Welsh Government)
- Producer Price Indices (PPI), including the Export Price Index (EPI) and Import Price Index (IPI), and Services Producer Price Indices (SPPI) from Nov 2020 onwards (4) (ONS)
- Scottish Cervical Cancer Screening Programme statistics (2016/17 to 2021/22) (Public Health Scotland)
- Statistics from the Wealth and Assets Survey (ONS) (3): Household Total Wealth in Great Britain; Saving for Retirement in Great Britain; Household Debt in Great Britain

- Digital Sector Economic Estimates: Employment statistics (Department for Science, Innovation and Technology)
- Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) ambulance statistics within the Northern Ireland Hospital Statistics: Urgent and Emergency Care publication (Department of Health, NI)
- Healthy Life Expectancy statistics (National Records of Scotland)
- Students in Higher Education (Medr)
- Welsh Language in Higher Education (Medr)
- Further Education, Work-Based Learning and Community Learning (Medr)
- Learner Outcome Measures for Apprenticeships (Medr)
- National Survey for Wales statistics (Welsh Government)
- DCMS Sector Economic Estimates: Employment series (Department for Culture, Media and Sport)
- School Meal Uptake statistics (Scottish Government)
- Adult Social Care Activity statistics (Department of Health and Social Care)
- Breast Cancer Screening Statistics and Scottish Health Costs (Public Health Scotland)
- NI Poverty and Income Inequality Report 2024–25 and the NI Family Resources Survey Report 2024–25 (Department for Communities NI, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency)
- Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland (Scottish Government)
- Relative Income Poverty (Welsh Government)

Confirmations of new OS Accreditation (or Reaccreditation) (7)

Accredited Official Statistics are official statistics that have been independently reviewed by OSR and confirmed to comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics. These will whether be new accreditations or reaccreditations of statistics that have previously been cancelled or suspended and have implemented remedial actions.

- Accident and Emergency statistics (NHS England)
- Public Transport Statistics Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency)
- Statistics on Employment and Earnings from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information (PAYE RTI) (HM Revenue and Customs and Office for National Statistics)
- Northern Ireland Business Expenditure on Research and Development (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency)

- Cancer Waiting Times statistics (NHS England)
 - Domestic Abuse Estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (ONS) (Reaccreditation)
 - Northern Ireland Tourism statistics covering trips, nights and associated expenditure (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency) (Reaccreditation)
-

Compliance reviews (14)

Compliance reviews of existing accredited official statistics are conducted to check the statistics' ongoing compliance with the Code. They often focus on a specific issue or part of the Code. Compliance review of official statistics are conducted to check the statistics' ongoing compliance with Code, but where the outcome does not involve a decision on accreditation. Their main aim is to recommend improvements to the statistics.

- Maternity and Births statistics and Breastfeeding statistics (Welsh Government) (continued designation)
- Coroners statistics (Ministry of Justice) (continued designation)
- Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) (ONS) (continued designation)
- Inpatient, Day Case and Outpatient Stage of Treatment Waiting Times (Public Health Scotland) (continued designation)
- Family Spending statistics (ONS) (continued designation)
- Treatment of Seasonality in Quarterly GDP statistics (ONS) (continued designation)
- Referral to Treatment (RTT) statistics (NHS England) (continued designation)
- Gambling Survey for Great Britain (Gambling Commission)
- Building Safety Remediation: Monthly Data Release (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)
- Northern Ireland Tourism statistics (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency)
- Direct Effects of Illustrative Tax Changes (HM Revenue & Customs)
- Justice Data Lab statistics (Ministry of Justice)
- Cyber Security Breaches Survey (Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and the Home Office)
- Estimates of Additional Housing Need (Welsh Government)

Reviews (including systemic reviews) (8)

Systemic reviews are used when we want to improve the public value of a set of statistics or examine a cross-cutting statistical issue such as data linkage or classifications rather than an individual set of statistics. Examining issues across the statistics landscape allows us to influence how the statistics system responds collectively to maximise quality and public value.

- Review of Fraud and Computer Misuse Statistics for England and Wales (ONS)
 - Systemic Review of ONS Economic Statistics – Interim Report
 - Systemic Review of Economic Statistics produced by ONS - Final Report
 - ONS Reports on Progress with Economic Statistics, December 2025: OSR response
 - The Adequacy of UK-wide Comparable Statistics and Data
 - State of the UK Statistical System 2025
 - Intelligent transparency: 2025 review
 - Review of Mental Health Statistics in Wales
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Alternative release time decisions (5)

The Code enables official statistics to be released at times other than the standard release time of 9.30am, when there is evidence that this better serves the public good. Applications for alternative release times are made to the Director General, OSR by the relevant Head of Profession for Statistics/lead official.

- Transformation of UK consumer price statistics, groceries scanner data analysis, April 2025 (ONS)
 - Viral respiratory diseases in Scotland surveillance report (Public Health Scotland) (temporary)
 - Non-domestic rates revaluation statistics (Scottish Government)
 - Alternative Release Times for Economic Statistics (ONS)
 - UK Economic Accounts (UKEA) datasets (ONS)
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Research, guidance and think pieces (40)

We undertake research projects and collaborate with others who share our vision of statistics that serve the public good. We also publish policies and guidance to promote and support application of the Code across the UK.

- Statistics for the public good: Understanding and enhancing trust in official statistics

- Trust and official statistics
 - Reflecting on the role of statistics and OSR in an evolving public sphere
 - Regulatory Guidance: Dashboards
 - Putting the Code Principles into Practice
 - Ensuring Public Accountability
 - TQV Voluntary Application: Showing Trustworthiness, Quality and Value when working with data and statistics
 - Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone: Renewing Trust Through Ethical Practice
 - Guidance on the Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data and Wider Analysis
 - Required policies and statements relating to official statistics production
 - Short Guides to Code of Practice Standards (10)
 - Transition Guidance: Moving to the Code of Practice for Statistics Edition 3.0
 - Public involvement and engagement in official statistics: A toolkit for statistics producers
 - Introducing the Code of Practice for Statistics: Summaries about why the Code is helpful
 - Guidance on analytical leadership: achieving better outcomes
 - Compliance reviews: A guide for statistics producers
 - Election Guidance and Explainers (14)
 - Suspension and cancellation of accreditation
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Blogs and guest blogs (21)

The Director General and team members at the Office for Statistics Regulation and other ad-hoc guest authors present thinking on how the different areas of the statistical system can affect and benefit the public.

Blogs:

- Demand on the NHS is a poor proxy for understanding the UK's health
- Mission possible? Statistics and data in the UK Government's mission-led approach to government
- GDP beyond the bottom line: measuring what matters most
- Welcoming the new Evaluation Registry
- Good statistics are never done: Why producers should never stop improving their statistics
- OSR's emerging strategic themes: 2026-29

- From Trend to Tool: Elevating Dashboards with Trustworthiness, Quality and Value
- Efficiency in Action: Improving Productivity in Public Services
- Advancing data linkage: key takeaways from the Administrative Data Research UK conference
- Why Migration Statistics Still Matter
- Going beyond consultation to creative conversation about the Code of Practice
- What is it about TQV?
- How official statistics producers need to embrace vulnerability in a time of crisis: ISI World Statistics Conference 2025 keynote speech
- Renewed momentum? The Statistics Assembly one year on
- Mental health statistics across the UK: What we know so far and what's next
- Beyond public letters: the hidden impact of casework

Guest blogs:

- Quality Data, Shared Purpose: World Statistics Day 2025 and the Refreshed Code of Practice
 - Trust in Statistics: Launching the Refreshed Code of Practice
 - Celebrating Women in Stats and the refreshed Code of Practice: Reflections from Denise Lievesley
 - Don't Ask for Trust in Statistics. Earn It.
 - Skills for Care's journey to becoming producers of an accredited official statistic
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Other publications (6)

- Consultation on the Code of Practice for Statistics: Findings and next steps
- Annual Review of Casework 2024/25
- Office for Statistics Regulation Annual Report 2024/25
- Interim OSR Summary Business Plan 2025/26
- OSR Strategy: How we will strengthen trust and confidence in statistics: 2026–2029
- OSR Annual Business Plan 2026/27