

Statement on the Police Ombudsman Revisions and Errors Strategy

This Statement is issued in accordance with the requirements set out under Principle 2 of the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) and sets out the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland's (the Office) intention to be open and transparent about any revisions made to Official Statistics. This statement aims to ensure that users of statistics produced by the Police Ombudsman's Office have easy access to comprehensive information about those revisions.

Planned periodic revisions

Statistics on complaints and allegations received for the current financial year are revised quarterly. These are published in the Quarterly Statistical Bulletin and each publication supersedes the previous publications.

At the end of the financial year statistics on complaints and allegations are revised for the last five years and are published in both the Quarter 4 Statistical Bulletin and the Annual Statistical Bulletin.

Revisions mainly occur due to the 'live' nature of the Office's information systems. More detailed information about the complaints and allegations made will come to light as the complaint is investigated.

The baseline for the three Policing Plan targets are not periodically revised and neither is the number of officers who have received three or more complaints that have been fully investigated or resolved through informal or local resolution. This is the only information in the Quarterly Statistical Bulletin and in the Annual Statistical Bulletin that is not revised periodically.

Unplanned revisions

Many of these revisions we make are a normal, unremarkable and inevitable feature of statistical life and users are able to absorb and plan for those revisions accordingly.

However, some revisions are 'avoidable', in the sense that they are the consequence of errors or weaknesses in procedures or systems, or are the result of errors in

source material. Regardless of whether the responsibility lies with the Statistics and Research Team or elsewhere, we will follow the procedures described below.

Each revision will be examined to see if the effects are significant in terms of the degree of change or whether the changes affect the message the data portrayed. If the revisions are found to be insignificant, they will be revised in the next planned periodic revision (see above section).

Where the changes are significant and the Statistics and Research Team have determined that a correction is necessary and warranted, the published data will be updated as soon as is practicable. In such instances only the most recent version will be available on the website and its title will indicate that it is a revised version. Where there has been a revision to a table, this will be recorded as a footnote to that table.

Dissemination of corrections

Decisions relating to the dissemination of unscheduled corrections will be made by senior statisticians within the Office. In general terms:

As soon as possible after the Statistics and Research Team ascertains that a correction is necessary it will amend all current electronic versions of any release, publication, table, article, etc which contains the affected statistics or text, and re-populate the website as soon as possible with the amended versions.

If the correction is minor, or insignificant, in the sense of being inconsequential and hardly noticeable, the Statistics and Research Team will insert the necessary changes without alerting anyone.

Alternatively, if the correction is major or significant then the Statistics and Research Team will notify the known recipients of the electronic versions, and point them to the revised version available on the web.

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions about the statistics produced by the Police Ombudsman's Office, we would be happy to hear from you.

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By letter:

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