



Statement on the Office's 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 intention to be open and transparent about any revisions made to Official Statistics by the Research and Performance Directorate (RPD). This statement aims to ensure that users of statistics produced by RPD have easy access to comprehensive information about those revisions.

RPD endeavours to produce the highest quality statistics it can, in light of the available information and resources. However, improvements and consequential revisions can result due to the 'live' nature of our information systems, through basic human error, and through the continual improvement of methods. In the majority of cases, revisions made will be the result of the Office obtaining fuller and more robust information.

Whilst it is rare that revisions are required for the Official Statistics produced annually, the website will keep users fully informed of any changes which are made. Where there has been a revision to a table, this will be recorded as a footnote to that table. Where a publication has been revised, only the most recent version will be available on the Office's website and the title will indicate whether this is a revised publication.

Where a substantial methodological change is planned, the Office will announce its intentions before the release of the statistics based on the new methods. In this event, the Office will endeavour to provide background information and an explanation about the changes, as follows:

- RPD will publish a statement on the Office's website explaining that a methodological / reclassification has taken place and impacted upon statistical data.
- In the event that it takes a substantial length of time to witness the full impact of a particular change, an attempt will be made to give some guidance as to the likely impact of the change and this will be revisited in due course.

Errors

Many of the revisions RPD 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 RPD or elsewhere, the Directorate will follow the procedures described below.

Announcement of impending corrections

RPD will be open and transparent about the need for any unscheduled corrections. Once the need for a correction that warrants customer notification is ascertained, RPD will announce its intention to issue corrections, and the planned date of issue.

Dissemination of corrections

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

▪ Web versions of releases/publications/tables/articles/etc

As soon as possible after the Office ascertain that a correction is necessary and warranted, 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 those amended versions. If the correction is minor, or insignificant, in the sense of being inconsequential and hardly noticeable, the Office will insert the necessary changes without alerting anyone. Alternatively, the Office may accumulate minor corrections and make an update at the time of the next scheduled web publication to avoid making too many frequent but minor changes.

▪ Paper versions of releases/publications/tables

Unless there are compelling reasons, RPD will not attempt to recall/re-issue any paper versions of any release, publication or table etc. that contains the affected statistics or text if it has already been distributed. RPD will, of course, ensure that when further paper copies are issued, they will include any corrections that have been incorporated in the electronic versions.

However, if the error is substantial or significant, RPD will, where practicable, notify the recipients of paper versions by telephone or e-mail, and point them to the revised version available on the web. If the release or publication has a long shelf-life, the Directorate will consider re-issuing a revised paper version.

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

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