



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

## **Statistical notice**

### Ministry of Justice policy statement on revisions

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# Statistical notice – Ministry of Justice policy statement on revisions

Principle 2 of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires all producers of Official Statistics to publish transparent guidance on our policy for revisions. The Code of Practice is at [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk) and was published in January 2009.

The Ministry of Justice aims to avoid the need for revisions to publications unless they are absolutely necessary and put systems and processes in place to minimise the number of revisions.

Within the Ministry of Justice's statistical publications there can be three main reasons for statistics to be revised:

- changes in how either source administrative systems collect information or a change in statistical methodology to improve accuracy and measurement;
- receipt of subsequent information which alters our understanding of previous periods (for example – late recording on one of the administrative IT systems used operationally);
- errors in our statistical systems and processes.

## **Changes in source systems or statistical methodology**

Where major changes to source administrative systems are pre-planned and for changes in statistical methods we will, where possible, consult with users on the changes and treat these as a change of methodology. We will consult on how best to record in the future and the options for maintaining a consistent time-series – including any revisions of previously held data.

## **Receipt of subsequent information**

All administrative systems by their nature can update information previously held, by nature of the business process meaning that some information relating to a period already published is subsequently inputted.

The timing of each publication is designed to minimise the risk of the need for significant revisions for this reason. However, each Ministry of Justice publication will set out how the data held within this series will be revised in these circumstances.

## **Errors in statistical systems and processes**

Occasionally, errors will occur in our statistical processes. We do everything we can to minimise these errors and continually review our processes and procedures to minimise this risk.

## **Handling of revisions**

Our policy in handling revisions is to be transparent with users about:

- the need for revisions;
- how and when to expect revisions as part of our standard processes;
- the processes by which other revisions will be communicated and published.

To meet these commitments, all of our statistical publications will:

- ensure that the need for major revisions for any series are pre-announced on the Ministry of Justice website;
- include a detailed revisions policy within every release;
- detail how users will be informed of the need for revisions;
- give detailed and full explanations as to why the revisions were necessary.

In addition, the annual report from the Head of Profession to the National Statistician will

- provide information on how many revisions were required to our publications and the reasons for these;
- publish a time-series of revisions due to errors in our statistical processes and procedures so we can monitor the quality of our outputs

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