



# Freedom of Information Statistics: Development Plan

October 2017 / 2018

Quarterly and annual statistics on the Implementation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) in central government have been published since the FOIA came into force. Responsibility for the production of these National Statistics transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Cabinet Office in October 2015.

Cabinet Office are committed to the ongoing review and improvement of Freedom of Information statistics, to ensure that they are of the highest quality and public value. As part of this commitment, Cabinet Office will publish ongoing development plans, setting out intended areas for improvement. Freedom of Information statistics are designated National Statistics in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality, and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate. FOI statistics were most recently assessed by the Authority during 2016, with continuing designation granted in June 2017.

## Communication with data supply partners

### What we have done

- Released a questionnaire for all FOI data suppliers to allow us to develop a clear understanding of the departmental processes involved in the production of FOI statistics.
- As requested in supplier feedback we considered setting up an email list for notifications of the publication of the FOI statistics. After gauging interest from departments, this will not be implemented due to the majority being content with current levels and methods of communication in terms of publication notification.

### What we will do

### Timescale

- Continue updating guidance on how to use the Cabinet Office FOI statistics data collection template for suppliers, as appropriate. Ongoing
- Circulate terms of reference for a data supplier forum in order to come to consensus on the topics to be addressed and areas of interest. November 2017
- Set up a Data Supplier Forum to promote closer communication, resource pooling and good-practice sharing between departmental data suppliers. January 2018
- Build FOI data supplier questionnaire results into QMI document including feedback to be published. Annual Publication 2018

## User Engagement

### What we have done

- Review feedback on an ongoing basis and publish feedback and associated actions in a FOI statistical work programme.

### What we will do

Timescale

- Published a blog on the Cabinet Office Analysis and Insight blog, discussing the latest FOI statistics and the development plan (coanalysis.blog.gov.uk). October 2017
- Survey known users for feedback on the changes made to the annual bulletin incorporating previous feedback in order to identify future areas for development. January 2018

## Narrative and public value

### What we will do

- Review feedback on the updates to the format of the annual and quarterly bulletin in order to identify areas for improvement. Ongoing
- Explore options for interactive presentation of data using formats such as Tableau and D3 in order to enhance the usability of the data. Ongoing
- Maintain the FOI statistics QMI document and update it as appropriate Ongoing