



Northern
Ireland
Office

**Policy
Statement
on Revisions**

October 2018

Statistical Notice

Northern Ireland Office

Policy Statement on Revisions

Principle T3.9 (Orderly Release: Revisions) of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires all producers of Official Statistics to publish transparent guidance on their policy for revisions. The Code of Practice which was published in February 2018 can be accessed at: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

Details of the Department of Justice (DoJ) and Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) administrative or management data systems used by the Northern Ireland Office in compiling Official Statistics are set out separately in the Statement of Administrative Sources which can be found at the links below. The respective Policy Statements on Revisions can also be accessed at these links.

Department of Justice

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/protocols-and-programmes>

Police Service of Northern Ireland

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/official-statistics/>

This revisions policy has been drawn up by the Department of Justice's Head of Profession and approved by the Northern Ireland Office.

Data source organisations aim to avoid the need for revisions to publications unless they are absolutely necessary and they have put systems and processes in place to minimise the need for revisions.

There are three main reasons why revisions may be required to the statistics used by the NIO in compiling Official Statistics:-

- changes in how source administrative systems collect information or changes in the statistical methodology used in order to improve accuracy and measurement;
- receipt of updated information which alters their understanding of previous periods (e.g. late recording on an administrative IT system used for operational purposes); and
- errors in their statistical systems and processes.

Changes in Source Systems or Statistical Methodology

Where major changes to source administrative systems are pre-planned or where changes to statistical methods are intended, the data source organisations will, where possible, consult with users on such changes. They 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 of the business process meaning that some information relating to a period already published is subsequently revised.

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

Errors in statistical systems and processes

Occasionally, errors will occur in their statistical processes. The aim is to minimise these errors and continually review processes and procedures to minimise this risk.

Handling of revisions

Data source organisations aim to ensure that the need for major revisions to any series are pre-announced on their websites, detail how users will be informed of the need for revisions and how and when to expect revisions as part of the standard processes.

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

- the need for revisions; and
- the processes by which revisions will be communicated and published.

To meet these commitments, we will:

- give detailed and full explanations as to why the revisions were necessary to any data used by us in compiling Official Statistics; and
- include a time-series of revisions due to errors in statistical processes and procedures, where applicable.

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

- provide information on how many revisions were required to our publications and the reasons for these.

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