

# Assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics

## Statistics on the Environment in Scotland

*(produced by the Scottish Government)*

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### **About the UK Statistics Authority**

The UK Statistics Authority is an independent body operating at arm's length from government as a non-ministerial department, directly accountable to Parliament. It was established on 1 April 2008 by the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*.

The Authority's overall objective is to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good. It is also required to promote and safeguard the quality and comprehensiveness of official statistics, and good practice in relation to official statistics.

The Statistics Authority has two main functions:

1. oversight of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – the executive office of the Authority;
2. independent scrutiny (monitoring and assessment) of all official statistics produced in the UK.

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# **Assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics**

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## ASSESSMENT AND DESIGNATION

The *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007* gives the UK Statistics Authority a statutory power to assess sets of statistics against the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*.

Assessment will determine whether it is appropriate for the statistics to be designated as National Statistics.

Designation as National Statistics means that the statistics comply with the *Code of Practice*. The *Code* is wide-ranging. Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

Designation as National Statistics should not be interpreted to mean that the statistics are always correct. For example, whilst the *Code* requires statistics to be produced to a level of accuracy that meets users' needs, it also recognises that errors can occur – in which case it requires them to be corrected and publicised.

Assessment reports will not normally comment further on a set of statistics, for example on their validity as social or economic measures. However, reports may point to such questions if the Authority believes that further research would be desirable.

Assessment reports typically provide an overview of any noteworthy features of the methods used to produce the statistics, and will highlight substantial concerns about quality. Assessment reports also describe aspects of the ways in which the producer addresses the 'sound methods and assured quality' principle of the *Code*, but do not themselves constitute a review of the methods used to produce the statistics. However the *Code* requires producers to "seek to achieve continuous improvement in statistical processes by, for example, undertaking regular reviews".

The Authority may grant designation on condition that the producer body takes steps, within a stated timeframe, to fully meet the *Code's* requirements. This is to avoid public confusion and does not reduce the obligation to comply with the *Code*.

The Authority grants designation on the basis of three main sources of information:

- i. factual evidence and assurances by senior statisticians in the producer body;
- ii. the views of users who we contact, or who contact us, and;
- iii. our own review activity.

Should further information come to light subsequently which changes the Authority's analysis, it may withdraw the Assessment report and revise it as necessary.

It is a statutory requirement on the producer body to ensure that it continues to produce the set of statistics designated as National Statistics in compliance with the *Code of Practice*.

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# 1 Summary of findings

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This is one of a series of reports<sup>1</sup> prepared under the provisions of the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*<sup>2</sup>. The Act requires all statistics currently designated as National Statistics to be assessed against the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*<sup>3</sup>. The report covers the set of statistics reported in *Key Scottish Environment Statistics*<sup>4</sup> (KSES) produced by the Scottish Government.
- 1.1.2 The Scottish Government also produces *Scottish Environment Statistics Online*<sup>5</sup> (SESO), which has until now been included on the list of National Statistics. We think that it would be more appropriate for SESO to be presented as a set of official statistics that complements KSES, rather than as a National Statistics product in its own right. For that reason, SESO will be removed from the Authority's list of National Statistics. This assessment has only considered SESO insofar as it provides information that complements the statistics published in KSES.
- 1.1.3 This report is one of two reports on environmental statistics. The assessment of Statistics on the Environment in Wales, produced by the Welsh Government has been published in Assessment report number 163. An assessment is also underway of Statistics on Sustainability and the Environment in England and the UK, produced by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Environmental statistics in Northern Ireland are not currently designated as National Statistics. It is proposed that they be assessed in due course.
- 1.1.4 This report is shorter than normal. In particular, section 3 adopts an 'exception reporting' approach – it includes text only to support the Requirements made to strengthen compliance with the *Code* and Suggestions made to improve confidence in the production, management and dissemination of these statistics. This abbreviated style of report reflects the Head of Assessment's consideration of aspects of risk and materiality<sup>6</sup>. The Assessment team nonetheless assessed compliance with all parts of the *Code of Practice* and has commented on all those in respect of which some remedial action is recommended.
- 1.1.5 This report was prepared by the Authority's Assessment team, and approved by the Board of the Statistics Authority on the advice of the Head of Assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2007/pdf/ukpga\\_20070018\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2007/pdf/ukpga_20070018_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/09/08094058/0>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/guidance-about-assessment/criteria-for-deciding-upon-the-format-of-an-assessment-report.pdf>

## 1.2 Decision concerning designation as National Statistics

1.2.1 The Statistics Authority judges that the statistics covered by this report are readily accessible, produced according to sound methods and managed impartially and objectively in the public interest, subject to any points for action in this report. The Statistics Authority confirms that the statistics published in *KSES* are designated as National Statistics, subject to the Scottish Government implementing the enhancements listed in section 1.5 and reporting them to the Authority by March 2012.

## 1.3 Summary of strengths and weaknesses

1.3.1 The Scottish Government actively engages with the main users and suppliers of its environment statistics, and regularly meets with them to discuss developments to methods. The Scottish Government has some knowledge of the uses of the statistics, obtained from a consultation carried out in 2009, but this relates predominantly to users in central and local government.

1.3.2 *KSES* is primarily aimed at providing the non-specialist user with access to a range of statistics on the environment, which are not readily available elsewhere. Most of the information that the Scottish Government provides about methods and quality are presented in *SESO* rather than *KSES*, although the presentation of this information in *SESO* is not consistent across the sets of statistics, and there is a need to improve the links that are provided in *KSES*.

## 1.4 Detailed recommendations

1.4.1 The Assessment team identified some areas where it felt that the Scottish Government could strengthen its compliance with the *Code*. Those which the Assessment team considers essential to enable designation as National Statistics are listed in section 1.5. Other suggestions, which would improve the statistics and the service provided to users but which are not formally required for their designation, are listed at annex 1.

## 1.5 Requirements for designation as National Statistics

**Requirement 1** Take steps to develop a greater understanding of the use made of *Key Scottish Environment Statistics* and the needs of current and potential users, publish the relevant information and assumptions, and use them to better support the use of the statistics (para 3.1).

**Requirement 2** Label the *Scottish Environment Statistics Online* database as official statistics rather than as National Statistics and provide users with more information about the relationship between the database and *Key Scottish Environment Statistics* (para 3.2).

<b>Requirement 3</b>	Publish information about the Scottish Government's approach to informing users of changes to the methods and classifications used to produce <i>Key Scottish Environment Statistics</i> , in advance of its publication (para 3.5).
<b>Requirement 4</b>	Provide improved links in <i>Key Scottish Environment Statistics</i> to where information can be found about the methods used to produce the statistics (para 3.6).
<b>Requirement 5</b>	(a) Improve the accessibility of information about the quality of the statistics in <i>Key Scottish Environment Statistics</i> ; and (b) Identify whether or not the sources of the statistics are National Statistics and confirm that the non-National Statistics sources are of adequate quality to meet user needs (para 3.7).
<b>Requirement 6</b>	Provide information about the availability of comparable statistics for other administrations in the UK (para 3.8).
<b>Requirement 7</b>	Include commentary in <i>Key Scottish Environment Statistics</i> which identifies the main messages for environment statistics, and include the name of the responsible statistician in the statistical release (para 3.9).

## 2 Subject of the assessment

- 2.1 *KSES* is an annual publication that presents statistics on the environment in Scotland; including statistics on global atmosphere, air quality, public and marine water quality, radioactivity, land use and biodiversity. It also includes statistics on drivers of environmental change, and public attitudes to environmental issues. *KSES* presents summary statistics on each of the topics, along with a brief introduction to the relevance of the statistics and a description of the main findings. *KSES* also includes a link to the website of the supplier of each of the sets of statistics, and, in some cases, information about methods, quality, and relevant research. *KSES* has been produced since 2001 and is published in the autumn each year.
- 2.2 *KSES* is complemented by *SESO*, an online database that provides more detailed datasets. *SESO* also provides some commentary about the statistics, metadata and links to where further relevant information can be found. *SESO* includes a facility that allows users to download the latest statistics on the environment.
- 2.3 The Scottish Government told us that the cost of producing *KSES* and maintaining *SESO* is approximately £37,000, which is mostly made up of staff costs. Between 2001 and 2008, *KSES* was published as a booklet as well as online. The booklet was distributed widely, including to all schools in Scotland. Since 2009, *KSES* has been published only online in order to reduce costs.
- 2.4 *KSES* is used by policy makers in the Scottish Government as a source of information about the environment, for briefing and answering Parliamentary Questions, and for specific purposes such as environmental impact assessments. Consultants and specialists in environmental organisations use *KSES* to provide context and direct measures for use in assessing the condition of the environment and monitoring the impact of policies. *KSES* provides schools and other users with easy access to a range of statistics on the environment.

### 3 Assessment findings

- 3.1 The Scottish Government regularly meets with the Natural Environment Statistics Advisory Committee<sup>7</sup> (NESAC) which includes representatives of users and suppliers of environment statistics. The Scottish Government held a consultation in August 2009, using an online survey, in which users<sup>8</sup> were asked about their uses of the statistics, awareness of the available methods of consultation and their views on the timing and content of the statistical releases. Over 60 responses were received and the Scottish Government published findings from the consultation<sup>9</sup>. The Scottish Government has published information about the uses of *KSES* gathered as part of the user consultation, and through monitoring requests by users for environment statistics. The published information identifies broad categories of use but does not provide information about the types of decisions that these statistics inform. Although the Scottish Government actively engages with regular users, it is less aware of the characteristics of occasional users of *KSES* or the nature of the uses made of them. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should take steps to develop a greater understanding of the use made of *KSES* and the needs of current and potential users, publish the relevant information and assumptions, and use them to better support the use of the statistics<sup>10</sup> (Requirement 1). We suggest that the Scottish Government refers to the types of use put forward in the Statistics Authority's Monitoring Brief, *The Use Made of Official Statistics*<sup>11</sup> when documenting use.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government publishes a more detailed set of environment statistics and accompanying metadata in *SESO*. Although the Scottish Government has classified *SESO* as a National Statistics release, it is not a standard statistical product. We think that it would be more appropriate for *SESO* to be presented as a set of official statistics that complements *KSES*, rather than as a National Statistics product in its own right. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should label the *Scottish Environment Statistics Online* database as official statistics rather than as National Statistics and provide users with more information about the relationship between the database and *Key Scottish Environment Statistics*<sup>12</sup> (Requirement 2).
- 3.3 The Scottish Government updates *SESO* throughout the year, whenever more up-to-date statistics are made available, but does not publish a timetable for these updates. We suggest that the Scottish Government consider options for achieving an orderly first release of the wider set of environment statistics that it

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/scotstat/committees>

<sup>8</sup> Respondents included Scottish Government policy officials, the NESAC, users registered with the ScotStat consultation network, and individuals on the environment statistics mailing list. We were told that these were not necessarily current users of the statistics but users who have expressed an interest in environment statistics.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/scotstat/committees/resultssurvey/Q/EditMode/on/ForceUpdate/on>

<sup>10</sup> In relation to Principle 1, Practice 2 of the *Code of Practice*

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-briefs/monitoring-brief-6-2010---the-use-made-of-official-statistics.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> In relation to Principle 2, Practice 1 of the *Code of Practice*

- publishes in *SESO*, and publish a timetable for planned updates to the database.
- 3.4 The Scottish Government has published a revisions policy for environment statistics<sup>13</sup>. *KSES* identifies the statistics that have been revised since the previous publication. The Scottish Government told us that it plans to provide additional information about the nature and extent of revisions in *SESO*, and will include links in *KSES* to where this information can be found.
- 3.5 *KSES* informs users that more up-to-date statistics can be found in *SESO*. *KSES* provides a link<sup>14</sup> to information presented in *SESO* about changes to the statistics and changes to the methods and classifications used, although it does not draw users' attention to these changes in advance, or draw attention to any specific, major changes which may be of interest to users. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should publish information about its approach to informing users of changes to the methods and classifications used to produce *KSES*, in advance of its publication<sup>15</sup> (Requirement 3).
- 3.6 *KSES* includes information about methods within footnotes, although this is not provided for all sets of statistics. *KSES* provides a link to the source of the statistics, but this is usually a link to the home page of the supplier organisation rather than to information about the statistics. *SESO* also includes some information about the methods used to produce the statistics, but *KSES* does not provide a direct link to where this information can be found. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should provide improved links in *KSES* to where information can be found about the methods used to produce the statistics<sup>16</sup> (Requirement 4).
- 3.7 *KSES* provides some information about the quality of the statistics in the footnotes but this is not provided systematically and does not relate to the uses or potential uses of the statistics. As with the information about methods, information about the quality of the statistics is sometimes included within *SESO*, but this is not presented systematically. The Scottish Government has recently written to producers to request information about the quality of the statistics they provide for publication in *KSES*. The Scottish Government told us it plans to publish this information in *SESO*. The data sources for the statistics are a mixture of National Statistics, official statistics and non-official statistics, although *KSES* does not clearly label these sources. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should (a) improve the accessibility of information about the quality of the statistics in *KSES*; and (b) identify whether or not the sources of the statistics are National Statistics and confirm that the non-National Statistics sources are of adequate quality to meet user needs<sup>17</sup> (Requirement 5).
- 3.8 *KSES* does not routinely identify whether comparable statistics are available for other parts of the UK. The Scottish Government is planning to provide users with links to pages on the websites of Defra and the Office for National

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/Revisions/revisionspolicy>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/seso/recentChanges>

<sup>15</sup> In relation to Principle 2, Practice 6 of the *Code of Practice*

<sup>16</sup> In relation to Principle 4, Practice 1 of the *Code of Practice*

<sup>17</sup> In relation to Principle 4, Practice 2 and Principle 8, Practice 1 of the *Code of Practice*

Statistics (ONS) which present comparisons of environment statistics across the UK and internationally, although it is not clear which of the statistics included in *KSES* will be included in these comparisons. The Scottish Government has recently written to producers to request them to provide information on comparable statistics for other administrations in the UK. The Scottish Government told us that it plans to publish this information in *SESO*. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should provide information about the availability of comparable statistics for other administrations in the UK<sup>18</sup> (Requirement 6). We suggest that the Scottish Government engage with statisticians in Defra, Welsh Government and the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, under the auspices of the Inter-Administration Committee of the Government Statistical Service, to develop a framework for the presentation of statistics on the environment.

- 3.9 *KSES* provides users with easy access to statistics on the environment in Scotland. It presents the main findings for each set of statistics separately, accompanied by a graph and brief commentary outlining the policy and legislative context. The commentary outlines the findings and describes time trends where available, and in some cases identifies the reasons for changes. Where relevant, the commentary identifies the government targets relating to these statistics. *KSES* does not include any commentary which identifies the main messages for environment statistics. *KSES* does not include the name of the statistician responsible for producing the statistics. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should include commentary in *KSES* which identifies the main messages for environment statistics, and include the name of the responsible statistician in the statistical release<sup>19</sup> (Requirement 7). We suggest that in meeting this requirement the Scottish Government should consider the points detailed in annex 2.
- 3.10 The previous publications of *KSES* are available on the publications page<sup>20</sup> of the Scottish Government's website. The environment statistics publications page<sup>21</sup> includes a link to the most recent release and provides a list of all environment publications, but this does not include all the previous releases. We suggest that the Scottish Government ensure that all previous releases are readily accessible.
- 3.11 The Scottish Environment Protection Agency is developing a portal – Scotland's Environment Website (SEWeb) – which it intends will bring together a wide range of information about Scotland's environment in an easily accessible format. The environment statistics team in the Scottish Government has recently consulted other Scottish Government officials and NESAC on the implications of SEWeb for the future of *KSES* and *SESO* and has documented the outcome of these discussions<sup>22</sup> within NESAC committee papers. The Scottish Government environment statistics home page does not contain any information about the development of SEWeb, and so some users may be

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<sup>18</sup> In relation to Principle 4, Practice 6 of the *Code of Practice*

<sup>19</sup> In relation to Principle 8, Practice 2 and Protocol 2 Practice 6 of the *Code of Practice*

<sup>20</sup> <http://scotland.gov.uk/Publications/Recent>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/Publications>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Environment/scotstat/committees/NESAC11-05/Q/EditMode/on/ForceUpdate/on>

unaware of the potential changes. We suggest that the Scottish Government inform users of the potential implications that SEWeb may have for *KSES* and *SESO*.

- 3.12 Pre-release access to statistics in their final form is limited to the sets of statistics relevant to each recipient's topic of expertise. A few individuals are given pre-release access to all statistics in their final form to provide lines to take for communications and to provide briefings to inform ministers. The Scottish Government provided us with lists of those who are granted pre-release access. Pre-release access to the last *KSES* release was granted to 14 people. We suggest that the Scottish Government publish records of those who have access to these statistics in their final form.

## Annex 1: Suggestions for improvement

A1.1 This annex includes some suggestions for improvement to the Scottish Government's environment statistics, in the interest of the public good. These are not formally required for designation, but the Assessment team considers that their implementation will improve public confidence in the production, management and dissemination of official statistics.

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|---------------------|--|
| <b>Suggestion 1</b> | Refer to the types of use put forward in the Statistics Authority's Monitoring Brief, <i>The Use Made of Official Statistics</i> when documenting use (para 3.1).  |
| <b>Suggestion 2</b> | Consider options for achieving an orderly first release of the wider set of environment statistics that are published in <i>Scottish Environment Statistics Online</i> , and publish a timetable for planned updates to the database (para 3.3).   |
| <b>Suggestion 3</b> | Engage with statisticians in Defra, Welsh Government and the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, under the auspices of the Inter-Administration Committee of the Government Statistical Service, to develop a framework for the presentation of statistics on the environment(para 3.8). |
| <b>Suggestion 4</b> | Consider the points detailed in annex 2, in seeking to improve the statistical releases (para 3.9).  |
| <b>Suggestion 5</b> | Ensure that all previous releases are readily accessible (para 3.10).  |
| <b>Suggestion 6</b> | Inform users of the potential implications that Scotland's Environment Website may have for <i>Key Scottish Environment Statistics</i> and <i>Scottish Environment Statistics Online</i> (para 3.11).  |
| <b>Suggestion 7</b> | Publish records of these who have access to these statistics in their final form (para 3.12).  |

## **Annex 2: Compliance with Standards for Statistical Releases**

- A2.1 In October 2010, the Statistics Authority issued a statement on *Standards for Statistical Releases*<sup>23</sup>. Whilst this is not part of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, the Authority regards it as advice that will promote both understanding and compliance with the *Code*. In relation to the *KSES* and *SESO* releases, this annex comments on compliance with the statement on standards.
- A2.2 In implementing any Requirements of this report (at paragraph 1.5) which relate to the content of statistical releases, we encourage the producer body to apply the standards as fully as possible.

### **Appropriate identification of the statistics being released**

- A2.3 The title of *KSES* describes the coverage of the statistics. The period is given in *KSES* as the year of the publication rather than the reference years of the statistics (which come from the publication year and the three previous years). It is not clear from *KSES* which statistics have been updated. The National Statistics logo is included on the front cover, and *KSES* identifies the originating organisation. The contact details of the environment statistics team are provided, but the responsible statistician's name is not given. *KSES* has a contents page and an introduction which describes the content and format of the release.

### **Include commentary that is helpful to the non-expert and presents the main messages in plain English**

- A2.4 *KSES* does not contain a summary with main messages or an overview of the trends in the statistics. Commentary is provided separately for each set of statistics. The language used in *KSES* is straightforward and clear, and includes descriptions of technical terms within the footnotes. The explanation of the statistics outlines the findings and describes time trends where available, and in some cases identifies the reasons for changes. There is good use of graphs and charts to illustrate the statistics in *KSES*. The text in *KSES* primarily describes what the relevant graph or chart is showing. The underlying statistics are included in an excel table linked to *KSES*. *SESO* include excel tables, a chart and a facility to produce further charts.

### **Use language that is impartial, objective and professionally sound**

- A2.5 The text is impartial and evidence-based. The commentary is produced by the environment statistics team, using information provided by suppliers of the statistics and policy colleagues from the energy and climate change, marine Scotland, and rural and environment directorates of the Scottish Government. The statisticians ensure that the commentary is impartial and at the appropriate level for a compendium. The commentary contains descriptive statements that are consistent with the statistics, and useful and professionally sound comments on changes.

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<sup>23</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/standards-for-statistical-releases.html>

## **Include information about the context and likely uses**

A2.6 The commentary provides appropriate levels of details about the policy context and legislation relevant to the statistics. The commentary includes a description of the relevance of each of the statistics but there is little discussion about the quality of the statistics in relation to potential uses. The information about the quality and reliability of the statistics presented is insufficient and presented in several places within the releases, so it is not straightforward for users to locate. *KSES* contains some text outlining the status of National Statistics, although it does not distinguish between the status of the statistics contained within *KSES*. *KSES* contains a statement which suggests that the non-National Statistics are of good quality but does not describe how this assessment has been made.

## **Include, or link to, appropriate metadata**

A2.7 *KSES* provides some information about sources and quality in footnotes linked to each set of statistics. *SESO* contains more detailed information within footnotes attached to the commentary and within footnotes accompanying the downloadable statistics. The metadata is also available in HTML as is the commentary. The statistics are by their nature focused on Scotland. No indication is given of comparability with other UK countries or internationally. No links are provided to similar statistics in other countries although the footnotes in *KSES* sometimes identify where the statistics are provided by a UK department. The releases note some changes to some of the methods, such as those used in estimating greenhouse gas emissions. No indication is given of the extent and impact of the changes.

## Annex 3: Summary of assessment process and users' views

A3.1 This assessment was conducted from June to September 2011.

A3.2 The Assessment team – Celia Macintyre and Catherine Barham – agreed the scope of and timetable for this assessment with representatives of the Scottish Government in June. The Written Evidence for Assessment was provided on 9 August. The Assessment team subsequently met the Scottish Government during September to review compliance with the *Code of Practice*, taking account of the written evidence provided and other relevant sources of evidence.

### Summary of users contacted, and issues raised

A3.3 Part of the assessment process involves our consideration of the views of users. We approach some known and potential users of the set of statistics, and we invite comments via an open note on the Authority's website. This process is not a statistical survey, but it enables us to gain some insights about the extent to which the statistics meet users' needs and the extent to which users feel that the producers of those statistics engage with them. We are aware that responses from users may not be representative of wider views, and we take account of this in the way that we prepare assessment reports.

A3.4 The Assessment team received 8 responses from the user consultation. The respondents were grouped as follows:

Government departments	3
Researcher	2
Private sector	1
Supplier	2

A3.5 The six users who responded were content with the arrangements for consultation with users, and satisfied with the service provided by the statisticians. Three users reported that the level of detail contained in *KSES* and *SESO* was appropriate for a compendium publication, and were positive about the ease of access and range of statistics which are provided. Some users noted the following topics which could be considered for inclusion in *KSES*: categories of land use; soil quality; contaminated land; and statistics relevant to monitoring of the Water Framework Directive and Bathing Waters Directive. The two suppliers who responded to the consultation were content with the arrangements for supplying statistics, and reported that the system for supplying statistics was straightforward.

### Key documents/links provided

Written Evidence for Assessment document



