

Understanding the *Code of Practice for Statistics*

Guidance for other professions and analysts

Organisations that produce official statistics should commit to the standards of the *Code of Practice for Statistics*. The Code applies to those directly working in official statistics. There are other roles in the government that work with data but are not statisticians such as Operational and Social Researchers, Economists and other specialist analysts. Often this work feeds into a statistical bulletin or used for policy and decision-making.

For this audience, the *Guide to the Voluntary Application of the Code* (the VA Guide) – a high level summary of the Code – was developed to help you ensure the **trustworthiness**, **quality** and **value** of your numerical information.

The VA Guide does not supersede other professions' standards but instead complements.

The Guide contains the Code pillars and principles and helps you protect the reputation of your organisation. By following the VA Guide, your work will demonstrate:

- Its **trustworthiness**
- The **quality** of its outputs
- The **value** of the insight it provides

You should:

- Be ethical and honest in using any data
- Consult professional analysts to assure the appropriate use of evidence
- Use firm evidence that measures what is needed
- Present information accurately, clearly and impartially

“Everyone that works in organisations producing official statistics should handle and use statistics and data with honesty and integrity, guided by established principles of appropriate behaviour in public life”
Practice T1.1 of the *Code of Practice for Statistics*

But you should not:

- Share unpublished data and statistics without authorised pre-release access
- Selectively quote favourable data
- Use other people's data without checking their reliability first

Further help

If you are unclear about any aspect of using data and statistics:

- Contact your **Head of Profession for Statistics**
- If you cannot reach them or a deputy, you can contact the **National Statistician's Good Practice Team** via goodpracticeteam@statistics.gov.uk
- An interactive guide to the ***Voluntary Application of the Code*** is available with further guidance at: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>

The Office for Statistics Regulation assesses compliance with the *Code of Practice for Statistics*. To understand the tools we use to do this, please refer to [Code of Practice for Statistics: Our regulatory approach](#).