

Codes of Practice: what role do they play in the statistical legislative landscape?

UK Statistics Authority
Legal Services

In Summary

- **Legislation, Codes of Practice: how do they work together in the world of statistics**
- **Benefits vs legislative limitations**

Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

‘The Statistics Board’
UK Statistics Authority
(UKSA)

Office for
National
Statistics
(ONS)

Office for
Statistics
Regulation
(OSR)

10

Code of Practice for Statistics

- (1) The Board is to prepare, adopt and publish a Code of Practice for Statistics.
- (2) The Board may at any time revise the Code and, if it decides to do so, must publish the Code as revised.
- (3) In preparing or revising the Code the Board must consult—
 - (a) the Scottish Ministers,
 - (b) the Welsh Ministers,
 - (c) the Department of Finance and Personnel for Northern Ireland, and
 - (d) such other persons as it thinks fit.

12

Assessment

- (1) At the request of the appropriate authority the Board must, in accordance with this Part, assess and determine whether the Code of Practice for Statistics under section 10 has been complied with in relation to any official statistics.
- (2) If under subsection (1) the Board determines that the Code has been complied with, it must designate the statistics as “National Statistics”; but otherwise it must decline so to designate them.
- (3) A request under subsection (1) may not be withdrawn.
- (4) The person responsible for any official statistics in relation to which an assessment is being made under subsection (1) must provide the Board with such information about the statistics as it may reasonably require.
- (5) The Board must publish the results of any assessment under subsection (1).
- (6) The Board may in exercising its functions under subsection (1) take into account information or advice received from any person.
- (7) In subsection (1) the “appropriate authority” in relation to any official statistics is a Minister of the Crown, subject to the following—

13

Duty to continue to comply with Code

- (1) The person producing any official statistics which are designated under section 12 as National Statistics must ensure that the Code of Practice for Statistics under section 10 continues to be complied with in relation to the statistics.
- (2) Failure to comply with subsection (1) in relation to any statistics means that the designation of the statistics as National Statistics may not be confirmed under section 14 (but no action shall lie in relation to any such failure).

Three pillars of the Code

Trustworthiness

Confidence in the people and organisations that produce statistics

Honesty & integrity

Independent decision making & leadership

Orderly release

Transparent processes & management

Professional capability

Data governance

Quality

Data and methods that produce assured statistics

Suitable data sources

Sound methods

Assured quality

Value

Statistics that support society's needs for information

Relevance to users

Accessibility

Clarity & insight

Innovation & improvement

Efficiency & proportionality

Digital Economy Act 2017

Principle 1:

Confidentiality

Principle 2:

Transparency

Principle 3:

**Ethics and
Law**

Principle 4:

Public Interest

Principle 5:

Proportionality

Principle 6:

Collaboration

Digital Economy Act 2017

**Principle 1:
Confidentiality**

**Principle 2:
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**Principle 3:
Ethics and Law**

**Principle 4:
Public Interest**

**Principle 5:
Proportionality**

**Principle 6:
Accreditation**

**Principle 7:
Retention and
Onward
Disclosure**

Conclusions

- **Flexibility**
- **International Credibility**
- **Public Trust**

- **Consistency**
- **Accountability**
- **Independence**