

## Statement of compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

The [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) sets the standards that producers of official statistics should commit to.

[Official statistics](#) are statistics produced by Crown bodies and other organisations listed within an Official Statistics Order, on behalf of the UK government or devolved administrations. Medr is listed as a producer of official statistics through the [Official Statistics \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Order 2024](#).

We publish a range of official statistics on the tertiary education sector. Some of these statistics were previously published by the Welsh Government or the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW). We will work with the [Office for Statistics Regulation \(OSR\)](#) to ensure that official statistics previously published by Welsh Government continue to comply with the Code. Some statistics previously published by HEFCW will be published by us as official statistics for the first time.

Not all statistics we publish will be official statistics. In determining whether statistics are official statistics, we consider the Code, other guidance from the Government Statistical Service and consult with the OSR. Where we have determined that statistics are not official statistics, we explain our reasons why and apply appropriate areas of the Code.

This statement sets out how our official statistics comply with the three pillars of the Code – trustworthiness, quality and value.

## Trustworthiness

### Confidence in the people and organisations that produce statistics and data.

Our statistics are presented impartially, objectively and free from political or commercial interference. Everyone that works with statistics and data in our organisation handles them securely, and uses them with honesty and integrity. Our statisticians advise on the use of statistics in our other communications such as policy documents or press releases.

Our [Lead Official for Statistics](#) is our Director for Statistics and Analysis. They are responsible for our compliance with the Code and are supported by the Welsh Government's Chief Statistician, as the Head of Profession for Statistics in Wales.

Upcoming statistical publications are listed in our release calendar. We aim to provide a 12-month release calendar and announce the date of publication at least four weeks in advance. We also announce upcoming statistical publications through the Welsh Government's [statistics and research calendar](#). If we make any changes to the calendar, we explain why. We publish our statistics on our website at 9:30am on the announced date.

Access to our statistics before public release is limited, as set out in our [pre-release access to official statistics policy](#).

Some of our statistics may be revised in future and those revisions may be scheduled or unscheduled. Our [revisions and corrections to statistics policy](#) sets out our approach.

Through our engagement with users of our statistics, we seek to increase awareness of the statistics we publish and inform them of our plans and priorities. The statistical publications listed in our [release calendar](#) are central to our work programme.

As with all of our recruitment, we recruit our statisticians in line with our values. We also use the [Government Statistician Group competency framework](#) for certain roles. Our statisticians are provided with the time and resources required to develop their skills, knowledge and competencies.

We are committed to processing personal information responsibly, in line with data protection legislation and our internal policies. This includes:

- use of statistical disclosure control to protect the confidentiality of data subjects
- storing and transferring information securely
- fair processing of personal information
- regularly assessing the risks of identifying individuals in the data and related statistical outputs
- any mitigating actions to reduce those risks.

## Quality

### **Data and methods that produce assured statistics.**

We include relevant quality information alongside each of our statistical publications. This includes information about data sources, the methods used to produce the statistics and our quality assurance processes. We are transparent about any limitations in our data sources and statistics.

We use a variety of different data sources in the production of our statistics. We consider the quality of each of these in the context of the statistics derived from them. The statistics we publish are compiled by our statisticians using appropriate data and methods.

Our aim is to ensure that our statistics are accurate, reliable, coherent and timely. We consider the strengths and limitations of the data and methods used to produce our statistics in relation to the different user needs for our statistics.

## Value

### Statistics that support society's need for information.

We aim to produce statistics that are useful, easy to access, relevant and support understanding of the tertiary education sector in Wales. Our statistical analysis is publicly available, free of charge.

Users of our statistics are at the centre of our approach to producing them. We aim to maintain and refresh our understanding of the use and potential use made of our statistics. Contact points are included in all of our statistical publications. We proactively engage with users and we also welcome feedback and queries.

We are committed to continually reviewing our statistics to ensure that they continue to meet user needs. As well as user feedback we utilise other tools, such as web analytics, to help us to inform our understanding.

If a user requires analysis that is not already available through our publications then they can ask us to produce it for them. We aim to provide a timely response to these requests where we have the data and resources to do so. We aim to publish any ad-hoc statistical analysis for external users on our website so that it is available to all, where appropriate.

We aim to follow [Government Analysis Function guidance](#) on making statistics accessible.

Datasets are published openly on the [StatsWales](#) website. Any spreadsheets that we publish will be in OpenDocument Spreadsheet format. These ensure that anyone can use, re-use and re-distribute our data freely.

The official statistics we publish are presented clearly and unambiguously. We provide clear statistical commentary to explain trends and key features in the data. Our data visualisations follow best practice guidelines. Technical terms will be clearly explained.

Our statisticians are encouraged to improve our statistics and data through harnessing new tools, collaborating with other analysts and keeping up to date with the latest developments in areas such as methods, quality and data visualisation.

## Contact us

We welcome any feedback or queries about our statistics. Email [statistics@medr.cymru](mailto:statistics@medr.cymru).

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh.