

## Department for International Development Revisions Policy

1. Principle 2, practice 6 of the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires all producers of Official Statistics to publish transparent guidance on our policy for revisions. The Code of Practice can be found [here](#).
2. This policy covers scheduled revisions, unscheduled revisions including corrections, and other changes to the Department for International Development's (DFID) National Statistics.
3. DIFD aims to avoid the need for unscheduled revisions to publications unless they are absolutely necessary and put systems and processes in place to minimise the number of revisions, as described in Annex 4 of Statistics on International Development.

### Scheduled revisions

4. DFID publishes statistics about the amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) the UK has provided as a proportion of Gross National Income (GNI) (the ODA:GNI ratio) for the previous calendar year on a provisional basis in spring each year. The provisional release includes preliminary aggregate ODA data, which is requested at that time by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). DFID also publishes final estimates of the ODA:GNI ratio and ODA spending in Statistics on International Development (SID) in the autumn. The autumn release includes more complete disaggregated ODA data, and the ODA:GNI ratio is based on estimates of GNI published in the ONS's Blue Book. These final ODA statistics are also reported to the DAC.
5. Once final estimates of UK ODA, including the ODA:GNI ratio, have been compiled and reported to the DAC, we do not schedule any further changes to the estimates and there should be no need to revisit the period covered by them during subsequent [reporting cycles](#).

### *Gross National Income (GNI)*

6. The releases of the ODA:GNI ratio use GNI estimates for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the year for provisional, and for the Blue Book for final. Estimates of GNI, used in the calculation of the ODA:GNI ratio, will be revised in line with the ONS's [National Accounts Revision Policy](#). However, it is OECD DAC practice to use the GNI estimates provided during the reporting cycle, and not revisit the period covered by them during subsequent reporting cycles.

### Unscheduled revisions, errors and corrections

7. Revisions can occur when information is received by a data supplier following publication, when no further publication was originally planned. For example, a late return can be supplied, missing the original publication deadline or when a data supplier notifies DFID that they have submitted incorrect information and resubmits this. In this case, a judgement will normally be made by the Chief Statistician or Head of Profession for Statistics

as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a “revised” statistical release immediately.

8. As the timing of the final statistical release of ODA in the following autumn is designed to ensure that, as far as possible, any non-scheduled revisions have taken place, these revisions are not expected to occur regularly.

*Errors in statistical systems and processes and corrections*

9. Occasionally, errors will occur in our statistical processes. We do everything we can to minimise these errors and continually review our processes and procedures to minimise this risk. These are considered to be non-scheduled revisions, and like (7) above, the Chief Statistician or Head of Profession for Statistics will make a decision on whether to correct and republish the figures immediately or wait for the next scheduled publication depending on the significance of the error found.

10. For unscheduled revisions, we will alert users immediately and issue a separate statement, explaining the nature, extent and handling of the change in the statistics in the statistical release.

**Changes in statistical methodology or source systems**

11. Where there are planned changes in statistical methods or source administrative systems, we will inform users in advance of any changes in methods through DFID’s Statistics webpage, and may consult users depending on the extent of the methodological change being proposed.

**December 2015**