

Statistical notice

Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy

Principle 2 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 at : www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html and was published in January 2009.

Communities and Local Government 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.

Types of revisions

Within Communities and Local Government's statistical publications there can be four main reasons for statistics to be revised:

1. receipt of subsequent information which is expected - **scheduled revisions**. For example, when figures are originally published as "provisional" and then updated to "final."
2. receipt of subsequent information – **non-scheduled revisions**. For example, an unexpected receipt of updated information from third parties after the original statistics have been published;
3. errors in our statistical systems and processes – **non-scheduled revisions**;
4. changes in how either source administrative systems collect information or a change in statistical methodology to improve accuracy and measurement.

1. Receipt of subsequent information (scheduled revisions)

All administrative systems and some data collections can receive updated information following their original publication. This means that some information relating to a period already published is subsequently inputted. These revisions are normally expected, such as when figures are published as “provisional” and a later publication is planned to provide “final” figures.

These revisions are scheduled revisions and any outputs that are subject to scheduled revisions will include an explanation of how these are dealt with.

2. Receipt of subsequent information (non-scheduled revisions)

Similar to 1 above, however this type of revision refers to the receipt of information by a data supplier following publication, when **no further publication was originally planned**

This type of revision can arise from events such as late return from a local authority, missing the original publication deadline or when a data supplier notifies CLG that they have submitted incorrect information and resubmits this. In this case, a judgement will normally be made by the Head of Profession for Statistics as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a “revised” statistical release.

As these revisions are not regular occurrences, they are considered to be non-scheduled.

3. Errors in statistical systems and processes (non-scheduled revisions)

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 (2) above, a decision on whether to republish the figures is made on a case by case basis.

4. Changes in source systems or statistical methodology

Where major changes to source administrative systems are pre-planned and for changes in statistical methods we will, where possible, consult with users on the changes and treat these as a change of methodology. We will consult on how best to record in the future and the options for maintaining a consistent time-series – including any revisions of previously held data. We will also consult on any major changes to survey methodology.

Handling of revisions

Our policy in handling revisions is to be transparent with users about:

- the need for revisions
- how and when to expect revisions as part of our standard processes
- the processes by which other revisions will be communicated and published.

To meet these commitments, all of our statistical publications will:

- explain the specific revisions policy for that output
- ensure that the need for major revisions for any series are pre-announced on the website
- detail how users will be informed of the need for revisions
- give explanations as to the nature and extent of revisions that were necessary.

Annual Report to the National Statistician

In addition, the annual report from the Head of Profession to the National Statistician will provide information on how many publications required amendments as a result of non-scheduled revisions and explain the reasons for these.

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