

# Statement of Voluntary Compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

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[https://accreditation.sqa.org.uk/accreditation/accreditationfiles/About\\_Us/SQA\\_Accreditation\\_Staff\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://accreditation.sqa.org.uk/accreditation/accreditationfiles/About_Us/SQA_Accreditation_Staff_March_2021.pdf)

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The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has been named as an official statistics producer in the Official Statistics Amendment (Scotland) Order 2019. This was passed by the Scottish Parliament in December 2019.

SQA comprises two distinct and autonomous functions – [SQA Awarding Body](#) and [SQA Accreditation](#). This statement of voluntary compliance is in regard to SQA Accreditation only.

Information on a subset of accredited qualifications from SQA Accreditation and other awarding bodies is published on our [SQA Accreditation](#) website.

Releases described as 'statistics' on our website are candidates for 'official statistics' badging in the future.

SQA Accreditation is voluntarily complying with the Code of Practice for Statistics by phasing in aspects of the Code. An outline of how this is being done can be found below.

<u>Trustworthiness</u>	<u>High Quality</u>	<u>Public Values</u>
<p><b>T1: Honesty and Integrity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data created and published honestly and impartially</li> </ul> <p><b>T2: Independent Decision Making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accountable to Scottish Ombudsman Public Service (SPSO)</li> </ul> <p><b>T3: Orderly Release</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preannounced publication dates</li> </ul> <p><b>T4: Transparent Processes and Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistical production process outlined in methodology document</li> </ul> <p><b>T5: Professional Capability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a professional competency framework in place along with data related courses</li> </ul> <p><b>T6: Data Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data retention and privacy policy outlined in the Methodology document</li> </ul>	<p><b>Q1: Suitable Data Sources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data received from 3<sup>rd</sup> party sources is checked for errors</li> <li>Clear processes in place to deal with errors in data submission</li> </ul> <p><b>Q2: Sound Methods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easy to find methodology document outlines how data is gathered and processed</li> <li>Clear and easy channels of communication and amendment policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Q3: Assured Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear line of communication between stakeholders</li> <li>Transparent revision policy</li> </ul>	<p><b>V1: Relevance to Users</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders engagement encouraged for data quality and research purposes</li> </ul> <p><b>V2: Accessibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data released in user friendly formats</li> </ul> <p><b>V3: Clarity and insight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Material available and procedures in place which promotes the use of SQA Accreditation data</li> </ul> <p><b>V4: Innovation and Improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email account for feedback: <a href="mailto:info.accreditation@sqa.org.uk">info.accreditation@sqa.org.uk</a></li> <li>Feedback procedures in place once feedback is given</li> </ul> <p><b>V5: Efficiency and Proportionality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual data and process reviews in places to ensure the costs of data collection don't outweigh the benefits</li> </ul>

## Trustworthiness

Statistics and information released by SQA Accreditation are produced by a statistical/analytical team who work independently and present statistics and information impartially.

SQA Accreditation works to a regular schedule to produce monthly, quarterly and annual reports which are available on its [website](#).

SQA Accreditation is committed to producing independent, impartial information which is free from political input and review its practices in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

## Quality

SQA Accreditation receives information from approved awarding bodies with SQA Accreditation approved qualifications. We have a [publication schedule](#) where we publish all documents on Thursdays at 9.30 am GMT. More detail can be found in the [methodology document](#).

As we phase in compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, SQA Accreditation will make documentation available on the methods used to generate statistical outputs and information.

## Value

SQA Accreditation will engage further with our users to ensure that user needs are being met under our remit as a national accreditation body. SQA Accreditation is in the process of creating a research network which brings together research institutions and education regulators with the goal of mutually beneficial co-operation. The goal is to make regulator data clearer and more accessible to stakeholders to promote research into vocational qualifications and education more broadly. This in turn can help inform best practices for SQA Accreditation and the regulatory community.

SQA Accreditation can be contacted at our staffed email address: [info.accreditation@sqa.org.uk](mailto:info.accreditation@sqa.org.uk).