

### **Proposed changes to the Code of Practice for Statistics (Edition 3.0)**

The Scottish Social Services Council is the regulator for the social work, social care and children and young people workforce in Scotland. Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social services being provided by a trusted, skilled and confident workforce.

We protect the public by registering social service workers, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development. Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct we can investigate and take action.

We:

- publish the national codes of practice for people working in social services and their employers
- register people working in social services and make sure they adhere to the SSSC Codes of Practice
- promote and regulate the learning and development of the social service workforce
- are the national lead for workforce development and planning for social services in Scotland
- publish data and official statistics on the social work, social care and children and young people workforce.

### **Questions**

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- 1. How satisfied or unsatisfied are you that 'Understanding the Code and how it supports the public good' explains the importance of the Code?**

- **Very satisfied**
- **Quite satisfied**
- **Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied**
- **Quite unsatisfied**
- **Very unsatisfied**

#### **Please explain your response**

We believe thoroughly and clearly outlines the value of the Code and how embedding the principles of trustworthiness, quality and value will ultimately serve the public good.

**2a. How satisfied or unsatisfied are you that the 'Guiding principles from the Code' set out the essential practices for delivering statistics that support society?**

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Quite unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied

**Please explain your response**

We have nothing to add to this.

**2b. How satisfied or unsatisfied are you that the 'Guiding principles from the Code' set out the essential practices for delivering other types of evidence that support society?**

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Quite unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied

**Please explain your response**

We believe that the principles articulated in 'Guiding principles from the Code' would be beneficial and applicable to other types of evidence, but we would wish to see this more clearly articulated in the document. At present the document specifically addresses data, statistics and analysis without making clear reference to other types of evidence. A dedicated section on the applicability of the codes to other types of evidence, with examples, may clarify this.

**2c. What changes, if any, would you like to see in the 'Guiding principles from the Code'?**

We have nothing to add to this.

**3a. How satisfied or unsatisfied are you with the 'Standards for Official Statistics' in representing the required standards for official statistics?**

- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Quite unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied

**Please explain your response**

We welcome the changes in the revised Standards for Official Statistics. We believe the revisions improve the ease of use of the Standards and believe the clarification of the role of Chief Statistician/Head of Profession for Statistics will serve the public good by increasing the trustworthiness of all statistics produced by Official Statistics Providers.

**3b. What changes, if any, would you like to see in the standards in the 'Standards for Official Statistics'?**

We have nothing further to add.

**3c. What changes, if any, would you like to see in the practices listed under the 'Standards for Official Statistics'?**

We have nothing further to add.

**4a. How satisfied or unsatisfied are you with the 'Standards for Intelligent Transparency' in setting the required standards for using statistics in the public domain?**

- **Very satisfied**
- **Quite satisfied**
- **Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied**
- **Quite unsatisfied**
- **Very unsatisfied**

**Please explain your response**

We would welcome additional clarification on the scope of the Standards for Intelligent Transparency. Public bodies are required to publish data on a number of areas to which it may be inappropriate to apply the standards, for example information relating to complaints or finances. While we support the introduction of the Standards, we would welcome clarification of what is and what is not expected to fall within their remit.

**4b. What changes, if any, would you like to see in the 'Standards for Intelligent Transparency'?**

We have nothing further to add.

**5a. What areas of guidance would you like provided through the Code Hub?**

We would welcome additional guidance on the role of the Chief Statistician/Head of Profession for Statistics under the revised standard 2 of the Standards for Official Statistics. In the previous version of the Code this standard applied explicitly to official statistics, but in the revised code this appears to apply to all statistical outputs by all public bodies. This change has the potential to significantly broaden the role of the Chief Statistician/Head of Profession for Statistics and we believe that many producers may seek additional guidance on this point.

**5b. Would you be open to helping us test guidance materials as we develop these further? Please provide your contact details at the end of the consultation.**

- **Yes**
- **No**

**Please indicate what topic areas you would be particularly interested in testing.**

N/A

**6a. How satisfied or unsatisfied are you that the draft refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics meets your needs?**

- **Very satisfied**
- **Quite satisfied**
- **Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied**
- **Quite unsatisfied**
- **Very unsatisfied**

**Please explain your response**

We have no additional comments to make.

**6b. Please let us know any further comments on the draft refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics.**

We have no additional comments to make

**6c. The refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics has been primarily written for the web. Would you also require a printed version? If so, which elements of the Code would you like to see included [please tick each that applies]:**

- **Yes – I would like a booklet version of the Code containing:**
  - **Understanding the Code and how it supports the public good**
  - **Guiding Principles from the Code**
  - **Standards for Official Statistics statement list (without practices)**
  - **Standards for Official Statistics statements including practices**
  - **Standards for Intelligent Transparency**
  - **Other: please indicate what other information you would find helpful**
- **No – I do not need a booklet.**

**7a. What is your name?**

Jack Booker

**7b. What is your emails address?**

[Jack.booker@sssc.uk.com](mailto:Jack.booker@sssc.uk.com)

**7c. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Organisation

**7d. What is the name of your organisation?**

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)

**7e. What is your role?**

Policy Analyst

**7f. Are you happy for OSR to contact you about your submission?**

Yes.

**Scottish Social Services Council**

**February 2025**