

Corrections and Revisions Policy for Official Statistics

This policy is issued in accordance with the core principle of Trustworthiness in [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) (the Code).

The policy sets out Department of Education (DE) Statistical Analysis Team (SAT) intention to be open and transparent about any revisions it makes to Official Statistics and to ensure that users of statistics produced by SAT have easy access to comprehensive information about those revisions.

SAT endeavours to produce the best figures it can, in light of the available information and resources. However, improvements and consequential revisions can result, as SAT continually strives to improve the methods and sources.

Scheduled Revisions

We may occasionally plan to make scheduled updates to published statistics. This may include, for example, when early or provisional estimates are produced. In such cases, SAT will make it clear which official statistics are provisional and subject to a scheduled pattern of revision. SAT methods will be kept under review to minimise the scale of revisions.

When planning and publishing scheduled revisions, we will:

- be clear and transparent in the initial publication where we are expecting additional data, what the impact of this missing data is, and when we intend to publish an update
- preannounce a date for republishing on our preannouncements calendar
- publish the revisions in a timely manner, to the preannounced date wherever possible, as soon as is practical
- include in the republished release prominent revision notices to advise users of the revision, the extent of the impact, and which figures have been affected

Where a substantial methodological change is planned, SAT will announce its intentions before the release of the statistics based on the new methods. For any official statistics, SAT will provide background information and an explanation about the changes.

Unscheduled corrections

As outlined in our [Quality management approach](#), we have robust procedures in place to minimise errors. However, errors do sometimes occur.

Where an error does occur, we assess the extent to which an error could affect interpretation of the publication and take appropriate action. If an error which could affect interpretation is found after a release has been published, the report will be republished.

When issuing corrections, we will:

- republish the release in a timely manner – if the correction will take some time to prepare, we will add a prominent message to the published page to advise users of the nature of the error and when we intend to correct it; we may decide to preannounce a date for republishing on [Statistical publications schedule | Department of Education](#) and [GOV.UK](#) depending on the nature of the error and the correction needed
- once corrected, publish detailed and prominent correction notices within the release to advise users of the cause of the error, what we have done to correct it, the extent of the impact, and which sections have been affected

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