

Official statistics and user engagement

July 2019



Official statistics are a fundamental requirement for good government, the delivery of public services, and evidence based decision making in all sectors of society. Adherence to the [code of practice](#) for statistics (the Code) ensures that we meet the needs of government and society and in a way that is both transparent and trusted.

Official Statistics - User Engagement

The Code is based on the three pillars of *Trustworthiness*, *Quality* and *Value*. The pillar of *Value* incorporates the principle that users of statistics and data should be at the centre of statistical production, their needs should be understood, their views sought and acted upon, and their use of statistics supported.

The production, management and dissemination of official statistics should meet the requirements of informed decision making by government, public services, business, researchers and the public.

SEPA will:

- engage with its users of official statistics to promote trust and maximise public value;
- investigate and document the needs of our users, the use made of our statistics and the types of decisions they inform;
- adopt systematic planning arrangements;
- publish statistics to an announced timetable that takes account of our users' needs;
- publish information about users' experiences of statistical services, data quality, and the format and timing of reports through consultation.

Consultation

Our consultation with users of official statistics will be done through relevant user groups such as the Scottish Government's waste data strategy board, user feedback available at point of publication, user surveys, and with direct communication with known users and stakeholders.

We can be contacted at waste.data@sepa.org.uk.

For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language please either contact SEPA by telephone on 03000 99 66 99 or by email to

equalities@sepa.org.uk

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL) the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter enabling you to communicate with us using sign language.

<http://contactscotland-bsl.org/>

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