

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE (NIHE)

STATISTICS REVISIONS POLICY

This revisions policy has been developed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

Background

This policy describes how both planned and unplanned revisions will be published. This policy covers all NIHE releases classified as Official Statistics, along with those treated as National Statistics and sets out NIHE Research Unit's intention to be open and transparent about any revisions it makes. It is vital that the Research Unit communicates effectively with users when dealing with revisions to data. We must ensure that users are aware of any regular revisions to data, their usual timespan and likely magnitude. Users should also be confident that unplanned revisions will be introduced in a structured and transparent way.

Planned revisions

The Official Statistics produced by the Research Unit are based on surveys, which are carried out at a single point in time. The data are therefore not subject to routine revisions.

Unplanned revisions

From time to time unplanned revisions need to be made. Examples of such revisions include improvements to methodology, revisions to data that feed into publications and the discovery of incorrect data through our quality assurance procedures. Each of these revisions will be examined to see if the effects are significant in terms of the degree of change or whether the changes affect the story the data portray.

The Research Unit will announce any revisions before the release of the statistics based on the new methods. For any key Official or National Statistics, the Research Unit will provide background information and an explanation about the changes.

If incorrect data are discovered after publication, these too will be examined for their impact.

Where the changes are significant, a corrigendum will be issued to all stakeholders and published on the NIHE website as soon as is practicable. Minor corrections will be announced on the NIHE website. They will be included in the next planned release or a revised publication will be released as appropriate. In all cases a full explanation will be included in the release. Where a publication has been revised, only the most recent version will be available on the NIHE website.

Dissemination of Revisions

Decisions relating to the dissemination of unscheduled revisions will be made by the Head of Profession within NIHE. In general terms:

- **Web versions of releases/publications/tables/articles/etc.**

As soon as possible after the Research Unit ascertain that a correction is necessary and warranted, it will amend all current electronic versions of any release, publication, table, article, etc which contains the affected statistics or text, and re-populate the website as soon as possible with those amended versions. If the correction is minor, or insignificant, in the sense of being inconsequential and hardly noticeable, the Research Unit will insert the necessary changes without alerting anyone. Alternatively, the Unit may accumulate minor corrections and make an update at the time of the next scheduled web publication to avoid making too many frequent but minor changes.

- **Paper versions of releases/publications/tables**

Unless there are compelling reasons, the Research Unit will not attempt to recall/re-issue any paper versions of any release, publication or table etc. that contains the affected statistics or text if it has already been distributed. The Research Unit will, of course, ensure that when further paper copies are issued, they will include any corrections that have been incorporated in the electronic versions.

However, if the error is substantial or significant, the Research Unit will, where practicable, notify the recipients of paper versions, and point them to the revised version available on the web. If the release or publication has a long shelf-life, the Unit will consider re-issuing a revised paper version.