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| **Standard** | **Release Practices for Publishing Statistics** |
| Origin of Standard | NSS Statistics Governance Team, Public Health & intelligence (PHI) |
| NSS author | Scott Heald ([scott.heald@nhs.net](mailto:scott.heald@nhs.net)) |
| Date | 22nd February 2018 |
| Next Update | February 2020 |

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| **What is the purpose of this standard?** |
| This Code of Practice for Statistics is aimed at all who produce and use statistics and it sets out the necessary principles and practices to ensure the values of trustworthiness, quality and value are met. It draws on international best practice (see separate DDA standard for more details of the Code).  NSS has produced a guide to release practices for publishing statistics. Compliance with the Code is a statutory requirement in NHS National Services Scotland. The Code of Practice sets out the role of the Head of Profession for Statistics as having authority for deciding on the methods, content, timing of release, and development of statistics and numerical information. |

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| **Who is this standard aimed at?** |
| This standard is aimed at all staff involved in the production of statistics which are made publicly available by NSS. |

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| **How do I access this standard?** |
| The standard is available on geNSS at (add in link to pdf and interactive):  <http://genss.nss.scot.nhs.uk/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/GENSS_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/PHISSBUDL/TAB3558442/2018-01-12-PUBLICATIONS-PROTOCOL-PRINT-VERSION.PDF>  The standard provides guidance on:   * The legal framework (UK Statistics Act and related Scottish Orders) * Pre-announcement of publications * Creating content, including a “how to” guide for writing an effective summary * Quality Assurance * Publishing timetable and steps which need to be taken prior to publishing * Early access and Pre-Release access to the statistics (in particular, when it is appropriate to give individuals early sight of the figures) * Revisions (e.g. to correct errors, or planned updates to reflect additional content)   In many cases the Code of Practice, although specific, requires interpretation and professional judgement, which the Statistical Governance team (NSS.nssstatsgov@nhs.net) and the Head of Profession for Statistics (scott.heald@nhs.net) can provide for colleagues. |