

NI Statistical Surveys - assessment of cost burden

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics (CoP) requires that “The cost burden on data suppliers should not be excessive and should be assessed relative to the benefits arising from the use of the statistics.”ⁱ

To this end, an estimated cost burden on data suppliers is reported annually and efforts are made to develop methods that will reduce the costs to individual organisations or people.

This process of monitoring surveys and the compliance burden they impose on respondents is known as survey control. The burden incurred by respondents to surveys of businesses has been monitored for a number of years. However, as of 1st April 2014, surveys to households and individuals are included in the scope of survey control within Northern Ireland.

For surveys of businesses, respondent burden is calculated on the basis of the financial cost incurred by that business from responding to the survey. For surveys of households and individuals, respondent burden will be calculated on the basis of time taken to complete the survey.

Details of calculation

The Compliance Burden (mins) for households and individuals is a simple **addition** of Response Burden (mins), and where applicable, Re-contact Burden (mins).

$$\text{Response Burden (mins)} = \text{No. of responses} \times \text{Median time (mins)}$$

ⁱ Principle 6 of the CoP. A full copy of the Code can be found [here](#).