

April 2019

Northern Ireland Construction Output Statistics Confidentiality and Access Statement

This Statement is issued in conformance with the requirements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). It sets out the arrangements put in place to:

- Maintain the trust and co-operation of respondents to the Quarterly Construction Enquiry (QCE).
- To uphold the guarantee that no statistics will be produced that are likely to identify an individual business unless specifically agreed with them.
- Maintain the confidentiality of the data we receive, store, process and disseminate.

Arrangements for Maintaining the Confidentiality of Statistical Data

Physical Security Control

All staff working in the organisation, and all visitors to its sites, require a pass to access the premises. There is no public access to any part of the organisation where confidential statistical data may be held.

Technical Security Control

No confidential statistical data are held on laptops or any other portable devices or kept on unprotected portable storage media. All transmission of data is conducted within the government information network or on encrypted email.

Statistical Disclosure Control

To minimise the risk of disclosure and maximise the utility of the statistics in the Northern Ireland Construction Bulletin, an appropriate combination of statistical disclosure control methodologies are applied to ensure that individual business cannot be identified including aggregation of data and table design.

The information obtained from the QCE is collected under the [Statistics of Trade and Employment \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1988](#). This legislation requires Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to maintain the confidentiality of the data that it collects and honour *Article 7 Paragraph 5* which specifies a minimum disclosure level with respect to any report, summary or communication to the public of information obtained under the Order:

(5) The following provisions shall have effect with respect to any report, summary or other communication to the public of information obtained under the foregoing provisions of this Order or under the Statistics of Trade Act (Northern Ireland) 1949.

(a) No such report, summary or communication shall disclose the number of returns received with respect to the production of any article if that number is less than five.

(b) Subject to paragraph (6), any such report, summary or communication shall be so arranged as to prevent any particulars published therein from being identified as being particulars relating to any individual person or undertaking except with the previous consent in writing of that person or the person carrying out that undertaking, as the case may be.

Providing Statistical Microdata to a Third Party

Individual level data (microdata) from the QCE may only be released according to the provisions of the [Statistics of Trade and Employment \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1988](#). It is illegal for NISRA to reveal the data collected in the QCE or to identify any business to unauthorised persons.

Any third party seeking access to the microdata must meet minimum requirements to safeguard and preserve the confidentiality of the microdata. The procedures set out in the Department of Finance (DoF) document 'Access to DoF Business Survey Microdata Confidentiality Guidelines' compiled by DoF Economic and Labour Market Statistics (ELMS) Branch will be used as the model of best practice in the event that any third party seeks access to QCE microdata.

Requests for Information

All requests for information will be dealt with in a timely manner. All requests will be treated fairly and without prejudice, taking into account the public interest, the requirements of the [Data Protection Act \(1988\)](#) and [Freedom of Information Act \(2000\)](#). Guidance on the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts can be found on the [Information Commissioners website](#).