

## Revisions and Errors Policy for Vital Statistics

### Revisions

1. This Statement is issued in accordance with the requirements set out under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and sets out our intention to be open and transparent about any revisions we make to Official or National Statistics and to ensure that users of statistics produced by us have easy access to comprehensive information about those revisions.
2. We endeavour to produce robust outputs in as timely a manner as possible with the information available to us while considering our limited resources. We produce data on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis. A full timetable of outputs can be found at: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp.htm>
3. Birth, Stillbirth, Death, Marriage, Civil Partnership and Divorce data is marked as provisional until the publication of the Registrar General Annual Report in November of the year following registrations. Initial provisional figures are released as soon as possible after their registration date to be of the most value to users. These figures are revised and updated as further data becomes available, for example, as later versions of the Central Postcode Directory are released the data will be updated to have the most accurate geographical indicators. In very occasional circumstances the headline figures may also change but these will generally be small changes and the revisions will increase the precision of the initial estimates.
4. This type of revision is planned and should not be confused with errors in released statistics where the data has been amended due to it being incorrect.

### Errors

5. If an error is found in any of our statistics we will assess the impact of the change and if it is significant we will announce our intention to correct the data and planned dates to do so as soon as the error becomes apparent.
6. All electronic versions of publications with the affected error will be updated as soon as possible. If the correction is minor or insignificant we will carry out the changes without alerting anyone. However, if the error is significant we will notify all recipients we are aware use the data to let them know a revised version is now available.

### Other Revisions

7. On occasion revisions will be made to how we produce data due to a methodological change or as a result of a reclassification, for example moving from International Classification of Diseases (ICD) version 9 to version 10 or a change in geographical boundaries within Northern Ireland. In this case we will pre announce the change with as much notice as we can and if possible we will either produce data with both classifications or revise historical data, whichever is more appropriate.
  
8. We will also produce guidance on the likely impact of the changes before they happen and quantify the impact after the change has occurred.

**Demography and Methodology Branch**

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