

# Working group on data about a person's sex and gender

## Underpinning principles

### **1. Purpose of paper**

To provide a set of guiding statistical principles that will underpin the work to develop guidance on collection and publication of data on sex and gender. There will be a wider set of principles we may quote in the guidance, though these will help us consider what the guidance should be.

### **2. Agreed principles**

The following are taken from the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#)

- Those producing statistics should be protected from any undue pressure that may influence the production or presentation of the statistics (Practice T1.1)
- All statutory obligations and internationally endorsed guidelines governing the collection or data, confidentiality, data sharing and release should be followed (Practice T2.3)
- The privacy of individuals and business information must be protected in the production and release of statistics and data, ensuring legal obligations are met (Principle T4)
  - The identity of individuals or organisations must be protected at all times. Appropriate disclosure control methods, including the nature of any consent given, should be applied when releasing statistics (Practice T4.2)
- Transparent judgements about statistical definitions and methods, together with judgements about the strengths and limitations, are essential in supporting confidence in the quality of the statistics (Principle Q2)
- Risks to data quality should be minimised – both operationally, such as using insight from audits and inspections of the data – and in the collection and data preparation processes (Practice Q3.1.ii)
- Statistics should be consistent and comparable, while remaining relevant to society (Principle Q4)
- In collecting data, organisations should be clear about the variety of uses and potential uses of statistics (Principle V3)

The following is taken from the [European Statistics code of practice](#)

- The overall methodological framework used for European Statistics follows European and other international standards, guidelines and good practices (Practice 7.1)

The following is taken from the [UN principles for official statistics](#):

- 'To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.' (principle 2)