

Understanding and Improving Quality in the UK Statistical System

Nikki Shearman,  nicola.Shearman@ons.gov.uk

James Tucker,  james.tucker@ons.gov.uk,  @ONSJames

Departments, Agencies & Bodies



Attorney General's Office



Department for International Development



Ministry of Defence



Cabinet Office



Department for International Trade



Ministry of Justice

25 Ministerial departments



Government Statistical Service

Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport

Department of Health & Social Care

Office of the Leader of the House of Commons

20 non-ministerial departments

Department for Education

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Office of the Leader of the House of Lords

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

HM Treasury

Scotland Office

385 Agencies and other public bodies

Department for Exiting the European Union

Home Office

UK Export Finance

Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
Swyddfa Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

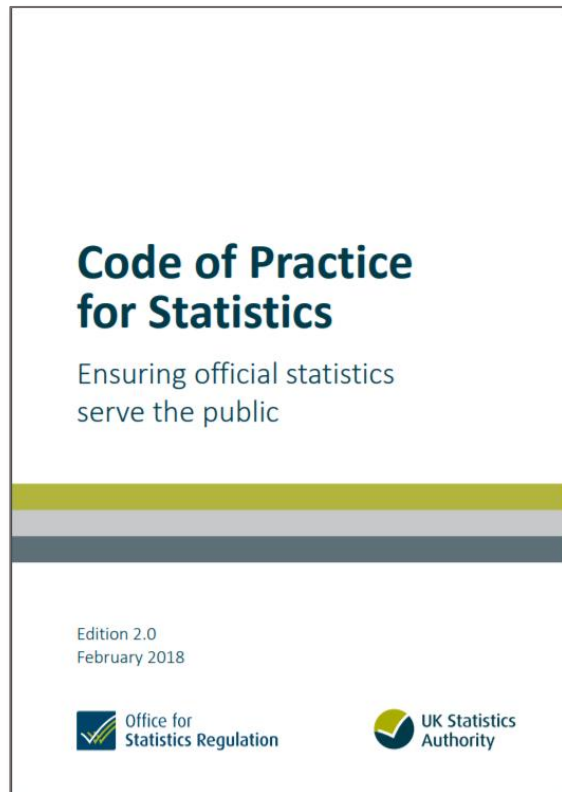
A black signpost with three directional signs. The top sign is white with a black border and points left, containing the text 'THIS WAY'. The middle sign is grey with a black border and points right, containing the text 'THAT WAY'. The bottom sign is white with a black border and points left, containing the text 'ANOTHER WAY'. The signpost is set against a blue sky with white clouds.

THIS WAY

THAT WAY

ANOTHER WAY

The Code of Practice for Statistics



- ✓ Professional standards for statisticians – encouraging transparency, collaboration and coherence
- ✓ Provides the foundations for building public confidence
- ✓ Guidance and standards for production of official statistics

The Code of Practice for Statistics

Trustworthiness

- T1 Honesty and integrity
- T2 Independent decision-making and leadership
- T3 Orderly release
- T4 Transparent processes and management
- T5 Professional capability
- T6 Data governance

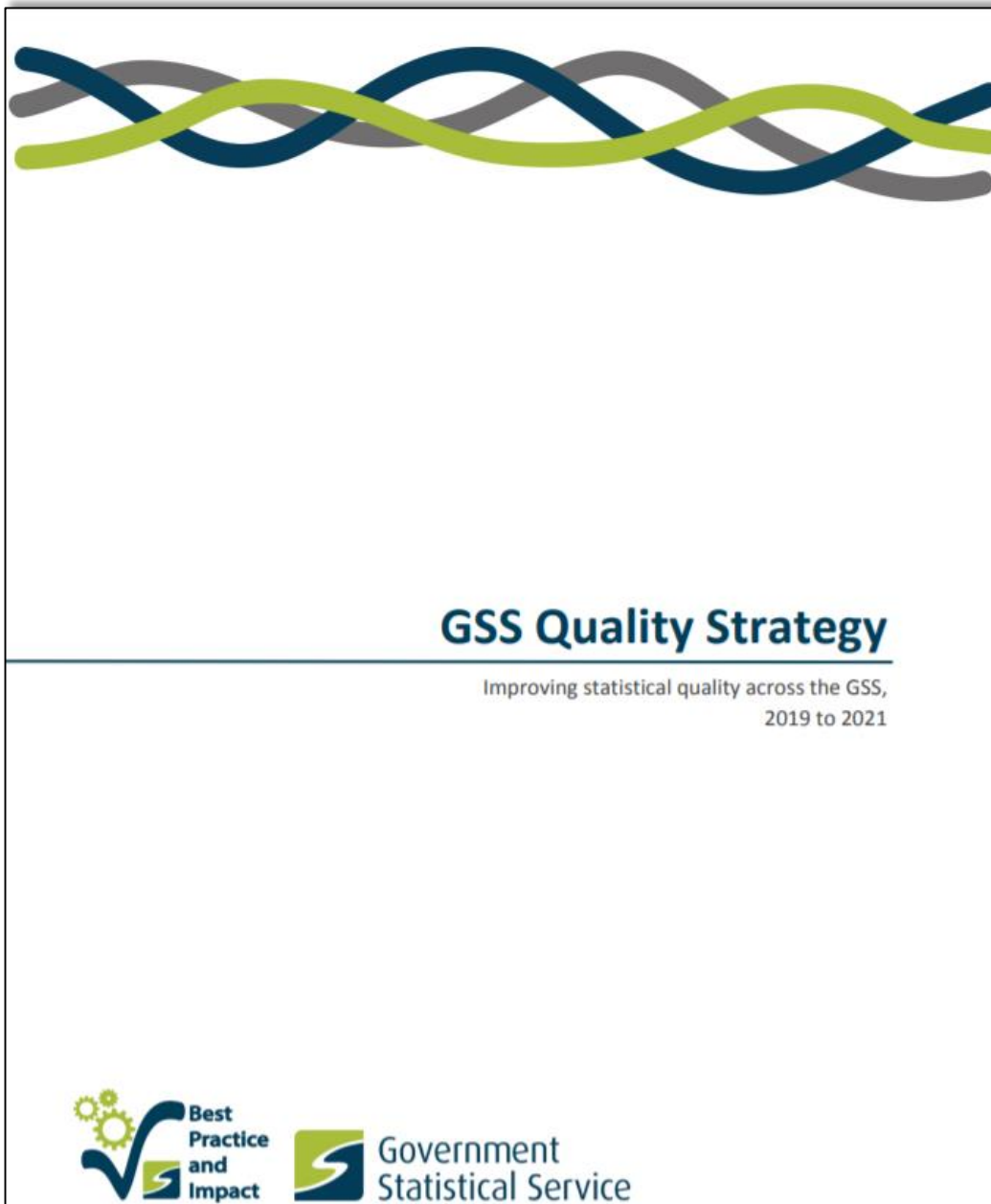
Quality

- Q1 Suitable data sources
- Q2 Sound methods
- Q3 Assured quality



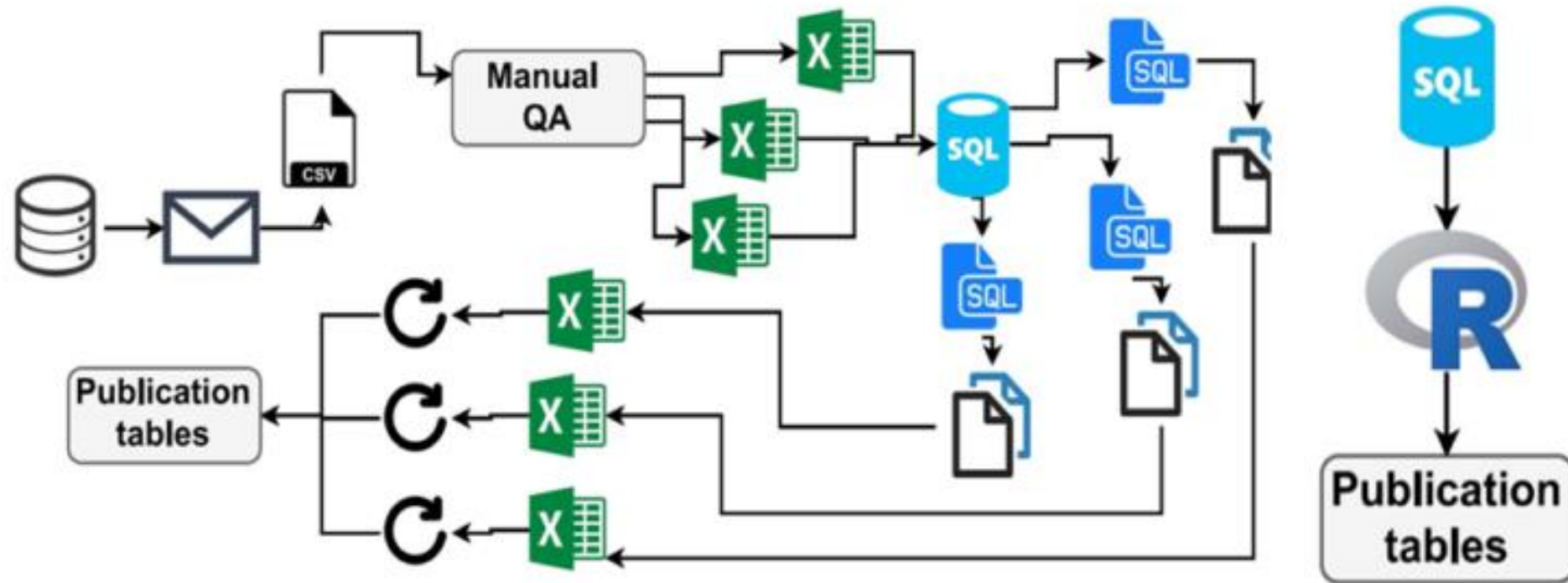
Value

- V1 Relevance to users
- V2 Accessibility
- V3 Clarity and insight
- V4 Innovation and improvement
- V5 Efficiency and proportionality



- We will all understand the importance of our role in producing high quality statistics.
- We will ensure our data is of sufficient quality and communicate the quality implications to users.
- We will implement automated processes to make our analysis reproducible.
- We will anticipate emerging trends and changes and prepare for them using innovative methods

Automated processes- Reproducible Analytical Pipelines



A typical manual statistical workflow, and the equivalent reproducible pipeline

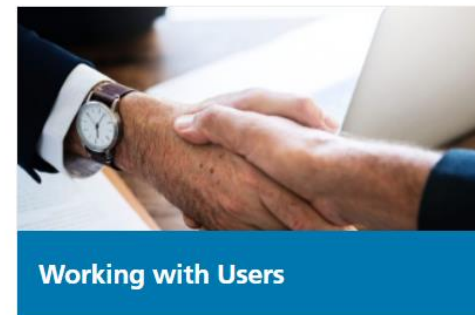
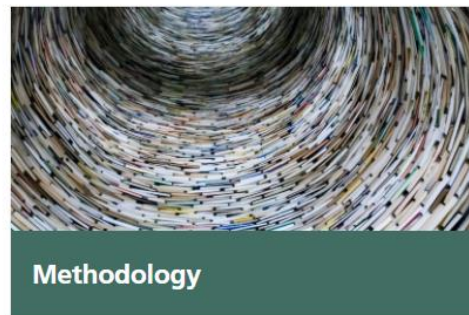
Anticipating emerging trends – A new programme of quality reviews to

- ✓ look ahead to emerging opportunities and challenges
- ✓ meet current and emerging user needs, and enable innovation
- ✓ capitalise on new data sources and technologies
- ✓ review their statistics within the wider context
- ✓ draw on the full range of expertise across government and beyond

Tools, standards, guidance and support



The Government Statistical Service (GSS) produces official statistics to support government decision making and promote public debate. Sharing best practice on key processes, such as data collection, analysis and publication, the quality of all GSS statistics is maintained.



<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/>

Thank you

Nikki Shearman,  nicola.Shearman@ons.gov.uk

James Tucker  james.tucker@ons.gov.uk  @ONSJames