

## **Exemption from Practice in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics**

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics states that under some circumstances it may be appropriate for the UK Statistics Authority to agree exemptions or exceptions to the practices contained within it. The PSNI has currently been granted 2 exemptions by the Statistics Authority

### **1) Requirement to provide the name of the responsible statistician for publications**

Protocol 2.6 in the Code of Practice requires producers of official statistics to include the name and contact details of the responsible statistician in statistical reports.

As a result of the ongoing security threat against police officers and staff within the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Head of their Statistics Branch requested an exemption from this practice and proposed that instead of naming the statistician responsible for a given report, we would use a generic title such as 'crime statistician' along with contact details that didn't contain the name of the statistician concerned.

This request for an exemption to protocol 2.6 in the Code of Practice was approved by the UK Statistics Authority in August 2011 (see link below)

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/exemption-requests/exemption-request---psni---160811.html>

### **2) Status of the PSNI's daily road traffic collision fatality report**

The PSNI issues a daily update on the number of deaths on the roads in Northern Ireland and this is in the form of a spreadsheet which presents the figures for the current calendar and financial year in tabular form. The statistics are used on an ongoing basis to monitor Government policy and in particular the Road Casualty Reduction target in the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy. The information is derived from management information but resembles Official Statistics in many respects; including the fact that it is made publically available; it is produced by NISRA statisticians, it is published on a regular basis and it forms the basis of a National Statistics output produced by PSNI. However, the daily fatal report has no commentary, as it would be impractical to provide this on a daily basis throughout the year, and has no background information and so doesn't comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

The PSNI therefore sought an exemption to these requirements given the unique circumstances of this statistic and the widespread use of the information by government and the media. This exemption was approved by the Statistics Authority on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013. As a result the PSNI's daily road traffic collision fatality update/spreadsheet is now considered an Official Statistic.

Principal Statistician  
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