

## Summary of Principles and Protocols for Producers of Tier 1 Statistics

Trust and confidence in Tier 1 statistics is assured through compliance with the [Principles and Protocols for Producers of Tier 1 Statistics](#), a set of practice requirements based on the *United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*.

A full copy of the *Principles and Protocols* document is available on the Official Statistics System website [www.statisphere.govt.nz](http://www.statisphere.govt.nz).

The following is a short summary of the principles and protocols.

### Principles

The 10 principles which guide the production of Tier 1 statistics are:

- Principle 1 – Relevance  
Official statistics produced by government agencies are relevant to current and prospective user requirements, in government and in the wider community.
- Principle 2 – Integrity  
Official statistics gain public trust by being produced and released using objective and transparent methods.
- Principle 3 – Quality  
Official statistics are produced using sound statistical methodology, relevant and reliable data sources, and are appropriate for the purpose.
- Principle 4 – Coherence  
The value of statistical data is maximised through the use of common frameworks, standards and classifications.
- Principle 5 – Accessibility  
Access to official statistics is equal and open.
- Principle 6 – Efficiency  
Official statistics agencies strive to be efficient and provide value for money.
- Principle 7 – Protecting respondent information  
Respondents' rights to privacy and confidentiality are respected and their information is stored securely.
- Principle 8 – Minimising respondent load  
The costs of compliance are kept to an acceptable level and data is collected only when the expected benefits of a statistical survey exceed the imposition on providers.
- Principle 9 – Maximising existing data sources  
Maximise the use and value of existing data by integrating or aligning available statistics and administrative sources.
- Principle 10 – International participation  
Official statistics agencies make use of and contribute to international statistical developments.

## Protocols

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### **Protocol 1: Quality**

Official statistics are produced using sound statistical methodology and relevant and reliable data sources, and are appropriate for the purpose.

- Element 1: Professionalism
  - Element 2: Good management practice
  - Element 3: Continuous improvement
  - Element 4: Relevance
  - Element 5: Accuracy
  - Element 6: Timeliness
  - Element 7: Consistency
  - Element 8: Interpretability
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### **Protocol 2: Frameworks, Standards and Classifications**

The value of statistical work is maximised through the use of common frameworks, standards and classifications.

- Element 1: Common frameworks
  - Element 2: Standard practice
  - Element 3: National & international comparability
  - Element 4: Promoting common standards
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### **Protocol 3: Respondent Management**

The costs of compliance are kept to an acceptable level and data is collected only when the expected benefits of collection exceed the cost to respondents.

- Element 1: Respondent load
  - Element 2: Collection value
  - Element 3: Using administrative data
  - Element 4: Data sources
  - Element 5: Reducing load
  - Element 6: Data collection methods
  - Element 7: Effective communication
  - Element 8: Participation by Māori
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### **Protocol 4: Confidentiality, Privacy and Security**

Respondents' rights to privacy and confidentiality are respected and their information is stored securely.

- Element 1: Legal and ethical obligations
  - Element 2: Awareness of obligations
  - Element 3: Use for statistical purposes
  - Element 4: Managing privacy concerns
  - Element 5: Preserving confidentiality
  - Element 6: Security
  - Element 7: Administrative data
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### **Protocol 5: Release Practices**

Access to official statistics is equal and open.

- Element 1: Accessibility
  - Element 2: Presentation and dissemination
  - Element 3: Release of Tier 1 statistics
  - Element 4: Pre-release security
  - Element 5: Unbiased reporting
  - Element 6: Unambiguous presentation
  - Element 7: Errors in published data
  - Element 8: Revisions
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### **Protocol 6: Management documentation and preservation of statistical records**

Tier 1 statistics are treated as an enduring national resource used for the benefit of all society.

- Element 1: Data retention policy
  - Element 2: Data custodians
  - Element 3: Contextual documentation
  - Element 4: Protection of statistical resources
  - Element 5: Historic preservation
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