

# Publication Report



## Alcohol Brief Interventions 2012/13

Publication date – 25th June 2013

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## Introduction

National guidance<sup>1</sup> defines an alcohol brief intervention (ABI) as follows:

*“an alcohol brief intervention is a short, evidence-based, structured conversation about alcohol consumption with a patient/ service user that seeks in a non-confrontational way to motivate and support the individual to think about and/ or plan a change in their drinking behaviours in order to reduce their consumption and/ or their risk of harm.”*

This publication shows the total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered by NHS Boards between 2008/09 and 2011/12 in accordance with the HEAT H4 target, and for 2012/13, the alcohol brief intervention HEAT standard. The standard states that NHS Boards and their ADP partners should carry out screenings in three priority settings, using an appropriate screening tool and followed by an alcohol brief intervention where required. In addition, for 2012/13 alcohol brief interventions delivered in wider settings counted towards the standard. The national guidance noted that at least 90% of the standard ( i.e. a minimum of 54,973 ABIs) should be delivered in the priority settings, but the remainder could be delivered in wider settings.

Both the screening (see Glossary for definition) and the brief intervention (if applicable) are delivered in line with national reporting guidance<sup>1</sup>, which is based on SIGN 74 Guidelines<sup>2</sup>. All NHS Boards were given a target for the number of brief interventions to be carried out between 2008/09 and 2010/11. This was based upon estimates of the rates of alcohol-related presentations, in primary and secondary care, amongst adults over 16 years of age in Scotland. This three year target was subsequently extended to 2011/12 to assist Boards to embed ABI delivery into routine practice. The number of alcohol brief interventions to be delivered for the HEAT standard 2012/13 was the same number for each NHS Board as for the 2011/12 HEAT target.

Three priority settings were identified as appropriate for the delivery of alcohol brief interventions on the basis of the available evidence: primary care, antenatal and accident & emergency. National guidance describes the appropriate screening tools for use in these three priority settings and considerations for delivery in wider settings. For a full list of the wider settings, please see Appendix A1.

<sup>1</sup> – Link to [ABI HEAT Standard National Guidance 2012-13](#)

<sup>2</sup> – Link to SIGN 74 Guideline: [Section 3: Brief interventions for hazardous and harmful drinking](#)

## Key points

- The total number of alcohol brief interventions carried out in Scotland during 2012/13 was 94,916, exceeding the target of 61,081 by 33,835 interventions (55%).
- The HEAT standard on the number of alcohol brief interventions delivered was met at the Scotland level, with twelve out of fourteen NHS Boards exceeding their target for alcohol brief intervention delivery in 2012/13.
- The number of alcohol brief interventions carried out between 2008/09 and 2012/13 was 366,184, exceeding the cumulative target of 271,611 by 94,573 interventions. Thirteen out of fourteen NHS Boards exceeded their cumulative target over this five year period.
- 69% of alcohol brief interventions delivered in 2012/13 were delivered in Primary Care.

## Results and Commentary

### All settings combined

#### Trend

Table 1 below shows the total number of alcohol brief interventions presented at Scotland and NHS Board level. The figures include alcohol brief interventions delivered during 2012/13 in the three priority settings, primary care, accident & emergency and antenatal, as well as all alcohol brief interventions delivered in the 'wider settings'. Please see Appendix A1 for a list of all wider settings. The total number of alcohol brief interventions carried out in Scotland during 2012/13 was 94,916, a decrease of 2,142 from the figure of 97,058 in 2011/12. Previously between 2008/09 and 2011/12 numbers of interventions had increased year on year. The cumulative number of interventions carried out between 2008/09 and 2012/13 was 366,184.

**Table 1: Total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered in Scotland, by NHS Board; for years ending 31 March 2009 – 2013**

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12 <sup>r</sup>	2012/13 <sup>p,1</sup>	Total Number of Interventions delivered
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>30,310</b>	<b>55,757</b>	<b>88,143</b>	<b>97,058</b>	<b>94,916</b>	<b>366,184</b>
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	3,001	3,475	7,591	7,501	8,002	29,570
NHS Borders	211	1,015	2,862	2,727	2,655	9,470
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	462	538	4,349	2,348	2,130	9,827
NHS Fife	3,110	2,685	4,773	7,430	7,592	25,590
NHS Forth Valley	3,939	4,071	4,094	8,789	11,104	31,997
NHS Grampian	797	3,635	11,229	8,682	8,282	32,625
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	7,603	13,682	15,465	19,886	15,320	71,956
NHS Highland	2,267	2,217	4,497	5,658	5,846	20,485
NHS Lanarkshire	994	10,163	7,813	9,034	9,660	37,664
NHS Lothian	3,826	11,128	14,930	17,093	18,275	65,252
NHS Orkney	40	627	155	308	353	1,483
NHS Shetland	35	46	287	361	315	1,044
NHS Tayside <sup>2</sup>	3,703	1,689	9,563	6,635	5,130	26,720
NHS Western Isles	322	786	535	606	252	2,501

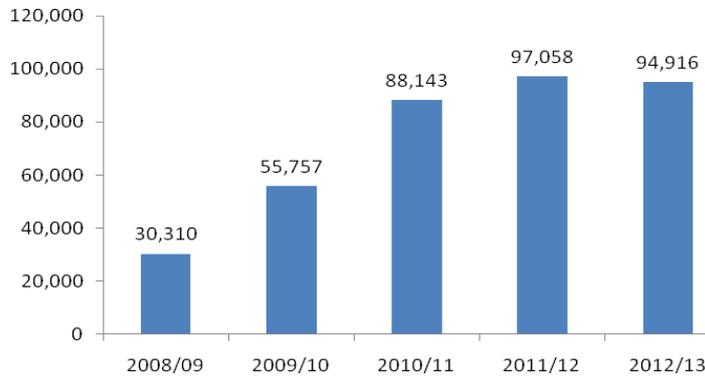
<sup>r</sup> – Figures for 2011/12 have been revised from those previously published.

<sup>p</sup> – Provisional

<sup>1</sup> – 2012/13 is the first year, information on the delivery of alcohol brief interventions in the wider settings has been submitted by NHS Boards. 2008/09-2011/12, alcohol brief interventions were reported for priority settings only.

<sup>2</sup> – NHS Tayside were unable to collect the exact number of alcohol brief interventions delivered in one service setting but have conducted a sample audit which has ascertained the level of recorded problem alcohol use. The reported number of alcohol brief interventions from this setting assumes 75% of these individuals will have received a brief intervention. This accounts for 13% of the 5,130 alcohol brief interventions delivered in NHS Tayside during 2012/13.

**Figure 1: Total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered in Scotland, by NHS Board; for years ending 31 March 2009 – 2013**



### Current targets

Table 2 below presents information on the HEAT standard set at Scotland and NHS Board level for the total number of alcohol brief interventions to be delivered in 2012/13 and compares this against the actual number delivered.

**Table 2: Total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered in Scotland, by NHS Board; compared with HEAT standard target for year ending 31 March 2013**

	Total Number of Interventions delivered 2012/13	Target Number of Interventions 2012/13	% of Target
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>94,916</b>	<b>61,081</b>	<b>155%</b>
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	8,002	4,076	196%
NHS Borders	2,655	1,247	213%
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	2,130	1,629	131%
NHS Fife	7,592	4,505	169%
NHS Forth Valley	11,104	3,676	302%
NHS Grampian	8,282	6,054	137%
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	15,320	14,066	109%
NHS Highland	5,846	3,802	154%
NHS Lanarkshire	9,660	6,167	157%
NHS Lothian	18,275	9,938	184%
NHS Orkney	353	206	171%
NHS Shetland	315	240	131%
NHS Tayside <sup>1</sup>	5,130	5,137	100%
NHS Western Isles	252	338	75%

<sup>p</sup> – Provisional

<sup>1</sup> – NHS Tayside were unable to collect the exact number of alcohol brief interventions delivered in one service setting but have conducted a sample audit which has ascertained the level of recorded problem alcohol use. The reported number of alcohol brief interventions from this setting assumes 75% of these individuals will have received a brief intervention. This accounts for 13% of the 5,130 alcohol brief interventions delivered in NHS Tayside during 2012/13.

As table 2 shows, the majority of NHS Boards met and exceeded their target for alcohol brief intervention delivery in 2012/13, the only exceptions being NHS Tayside (see Table 2: note 1) and NHS Western Isles.

**Total delivered versus total target**

Table 3 below presents information on the HEAT standard set at Scotland and NHS Board level for the total number of alcohol brief interventions to be delivered over the five-year period and compares this against the actual number delivered over this period.

**Table 3: Total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered Scotland, by NHS Board compared with HEAT standard target; for period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2013**

	<b>Total Number of Interventions delivered 2008/09 - 2012/13</b>	<b>Target Number of Interventions 2008/09- 2012/13</b>	<b>% of Target</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>366,184</b>	<b>271,611</b>	<b>135%</b>
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	29,570	18,849	157%
NHS Borders	9,470	5,704	166%
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	9,827	7,615	129%
NHS Fife	25,590	19,462	131%
NHS Forth Valley	31,997	15,606	205%
NHS Grampian	32,625	27,604	118%
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	71,956	63,034	114%
NHS Highland	20,485	16,568	124%
NHS Lanarkshire	37,664	28,391	133%
NHS Lothian	65,252	43,470	150%
NHS Orkney	1,483	989	150%
NHS Shetland	1,044	1,102	95%
NHS Tayside	26,720	21,769	123%
NHS Western Isles	2,501	1,448	173%

The HEAT standard on the number of alcohol brief interventions delivered between 2008/09 and 2012/13 was met at the Scotland level. All NHS Boards within Scotland met their specific cumulative target except NHS Shetland.

## Delivery Settings

The distribution of delivered alcohol brief interventions by type of setting, provides some understanding of the services, across NHS Scotland, where those people deemed to be drinking excessively are being identified.

For the first time in 2012/2013, NHS Boards submitted data on alcohol brief interventions delivered out with the three priority settings of primary care, accident & emergency and antenatal. By the end of 2012/2013, eleven out of fourteen NHS Boards were submitting data on alcohol brief interventions delivered in wider settings. See Appendix A1 for a complete list of all wider settings.

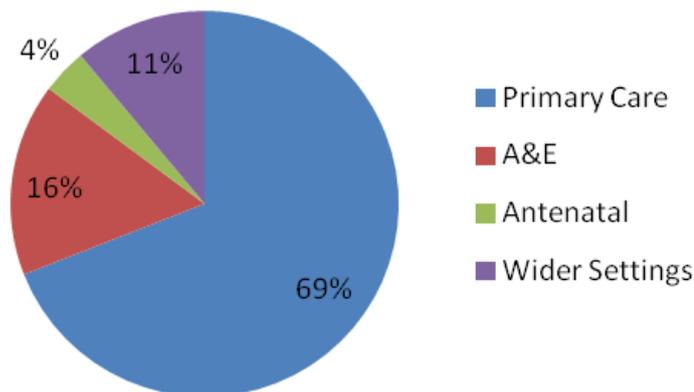
### National Breakdown

In 2012/13, the majority of alcohol brief interventions across Scotland were delivered in the primary care setting (69%: 65,526), 16% (15,327) was delivered in accident & emergency (A&E) and 4% (3,589) was delivered in the Antenatal setting. Other settings out with these priority settings accounted for 11% (10,472) of all ABIs delivered.

**Table 4: Number and proportion of alcohol brief interventions delivered across Scotland by setting; for year ending 31 March 2013**

	Total Number of ABI's delivered by setting 2012/13	
	Number	Proportion
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,916</b>	<b>-</b>
Primary Care	65,526	69%
A&E	15,327	16%
Antenatal	3,591	4%
Wider Settings	10,472	11%

**Figure 2: Proportion of alcohol brief interventions delivered across Scotland by setting; for year ending 31 March 2013**



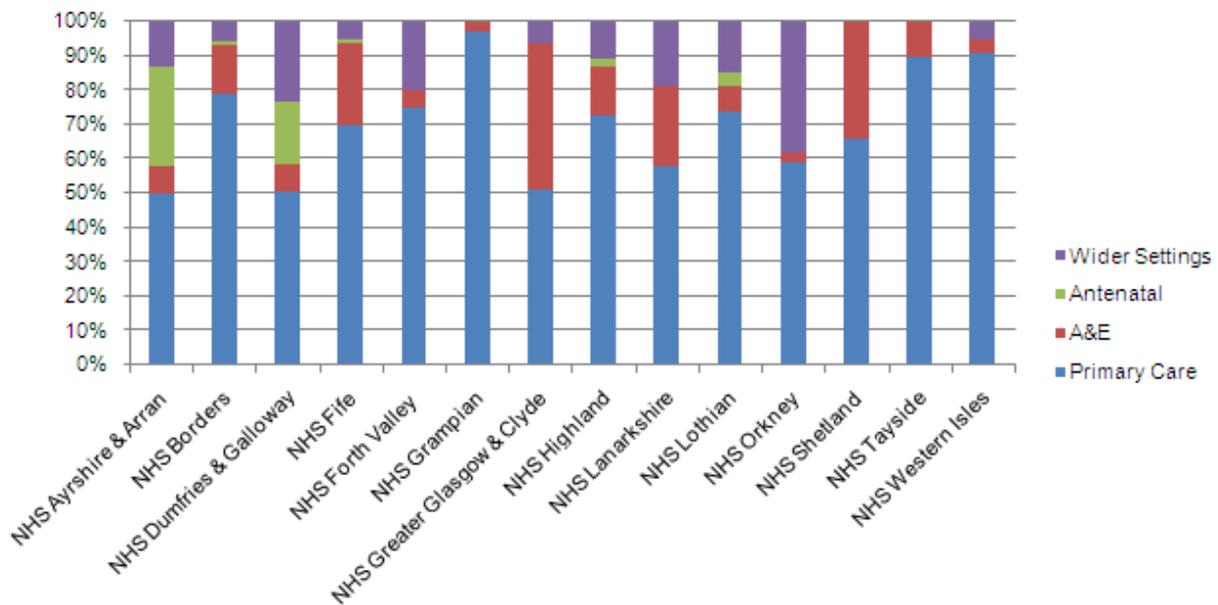
Board Breakdown

Table 5 below shows both number and the proportion of alcohol brief interventions carried out in each of the three priority settings; primary care, accident and emergency and antenatal, as well as in the wider settings by NHS Board for the year 2012/13. Figure 3 gives a visual representation of this.

**Table 5: Number and proportion of alcohol brief interventions delivered across Scotland, by setting and NHS Board; for year ending 31 March 2013**

	Number of ABIs Delivered				Proportion			
	Primary Care	A&E	Antenatal	Wider Settings	Primary Care	A&E	Antenatal	Wider Settings
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	3,974	675	2,283	1,070	50%	8%	29%	13%
NHS Borders	2,122	362	17	154	80%	14%	1%	6%
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	1,065	176	393	496	50%	8%	18%	23%
NHS Fife	5,340	1,838	41	373	70%	24%	1%	5%
NHS Forth Valley	8,370	548	6	2,180	75%	5%	0%	20%
NHS Grampian	8,060	216	6	-	97%	3%	0%	-
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	7,845	6,547	23	905	51%	43%	0%	6%
NHS Highland	4,274	826	120	626	73%	14%	2%	11%
NHS Lanarkshire	5,638	2,177	4	1,841	58%	23%	0%	19%
NHS Lothian	13,561	1,336	698	2,680	74%	7%	4%	15%
NHS Orkney	208	11	-	134	59%	3%	-	38%
NHS Shetland	208	107	-	-	66%	34%	-	-
NHS Tayside	4,633	497	-	-	90%	10%	-	-
NHS Western Isles	228	11	-	13	90%	4%	-	5%

**Figure 3: Proportion of alcohol brief interventions delivered across Scotland, by setting and NHS Board; for year ending 31 March 2013**



Note: Across Scotland comparisons of NHS Board areas should be made with caution as the differences between delivery of alcohol brief interventions in NHS Boards are likely to reflect a variation in practice and local priorities, rather than being a reflection of numbers of hazardous or harmful drinkers in a region or setting.

## Glossary

Alcohol Brief Intervention	Alcohol Brief Intervention (ABI): National guidance describes an ABI as a short, evidence-based, structured conversation about alcohol consumption with a patient/ service user that seeks in a non-confrontational way to motivate and support the individual to think about and/ or plan a change in their drinking behaviours in order to reduce their consumption and/ or their risk of harm.
Screening	A structured conversation focused on obtaining an accurate picture of the client's alcohol consumption to assess whether they are suitable for an ABI, whether they should be signposted to another service, or if no action is required. Screening tools appropriate to specific settings provide an objective and validated way of assessing whether a client is a hazardous, harmful or a dependent drinker. Screening is an important part of delivering ABIs and this alone may help the client recognise that they have a problem and start the process of thinking about change, or provide the motivation to change.
Primary care	Interventions delivered by doctors and nurses in the general practice setting. Interventions associated with health promotion checks (such as Keep Well) conducted out with the practice, but delivered by doctors and nurses in line with the guidance set out in this note, can be considered as part of the standard.
Accident & emergency	Interventions delivered by doctors and nurses as part of a patient's care initiated in an attendance at A&E, minor injury unit/department and community-based minor injury clinic. The intervention can be delivered in the A&E department, minor injury unit/department or community-based minor injury clinic as part of the clinical consultation. It may also be delivered during follow on care from an A&E or minor injury attendance in the acute setting, such as an outpatient fracture clinic or in a hospital ward following an admission from A&E. ABIs are most effective if delivered within 48 hours of initial contact.
Antenatal	Antenatal care delivered by midwives or obstetricians in a primary care, community or hospital based setting. It is anticipated that the intervention will be delivered as part of the booking appointment. Only interventions delivered based on in-pregnancy alcohol consumption will be considered as part of the standard. However, the gathering of information on pre-pregnancy alcohol consumption is considered good practice and enables a fuller understanding of a woman's alcohol consumption.
Provisional data	This is data that may as yet be incomplete for some NHS Boards; hence the final figure may be different to that reported once all returns are in. If indeed incomplete, these figures will be revised in a future publication.

## List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1	<a href="#">ABI_2013_Tables.xls</a>	2008/2013	Excel [60kb]

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## Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#)

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## Appendix

### A1 – Background Information

List of all settings considered under ‘wider settings’, where alcohol brief interventions can be delivered:

<b>NHS Priority Settings (Professionals other than doctor or nurse)</b>
A&E - other professional only
Antenatal - other professional only
Primary Care - other professional only
<b>NHS Settings</b>
Acute
Community Mental Health Teams
Community Nursing
Dentistry
Keep Well
Lifestyle Advisor Support Service (LASS)
Pharmacy
Podiatry
Sexual Health
Smoking Cessation
<b>Criminal Justice</b>
Custody Suites
Prisons
Social Work
<b>Community</b>
Children & Families
Fire & rescue
Higher Education
Leisure Services
Mental Health
Occupational Health
Older people
Police
Safety Staff
Social Work/Care
Young People
<b>Other (to be specified)</b>

**A2 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)**

<b>Metadata Indicator</b>	<b>Description</b>
Publication title	Alcohol Brief Interventions 2012/2013.
Description	The total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered across Scotland in the year 2012/2013 and comparative data from the year 2008/2009 onwards.
Theme	Health and Social Care.
Topic	Substance Misuse (alcohol).
Format	PDF report with excel tables.
Data source(s)	NHS Health Boards
Release date	25 June 2013
Frequency	Annual.
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Data was collected quarterly, from April to June 2012 to January to March 2013. Data also available for trend purposes for the period 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2012
Continuity of data	<p>Alcohol brief intervention data for all delivery settings available back 1 April 2008. Data broken down by setting type only available for 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013.</p> <p>For the first time in 2012/2013, NHS Boards were allowed to submit data on alcohol brief interventions delivered out with the three priority settings of primary care, accident &amp; emergency and antenatal. By the end of 2012/2013, eleven out of fourteen NHS Boards were submitting at least some data from the wider settings. See Appendix A1 for a complete list of all wider settings.</p>
Revisions statement	All revisions to data within this publication are planned and are due to incomplete data returns at the original time of publication. All tables will be revised annually. In general, these revisions have minimal affect on the statistics.
Revisions relevant to this publication	The figures previously published for the total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered in 2011/2012 have been revised.
Concepts and definitions	Definitions relating to <a href="#">alcohol brief interventions</a> can be found here.
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	Relevant to understanding problem alcohol use in Scotland. Statistics will be used for policy making and service planning.
Accuracy	NHS Boards have the responsibility of accurately collecting information on alcohol brief interventions delivered and providing ISD with this information. It is expected by ISD that local quality assurance methods and measures are in place and implemented to ensure information is accurate and correct. ISD conduct high level quality checks . Figures are compared to previously published data and expected trends.
Completeness	Generally considered complete. There may be a very small number of late returns received and data would be revised at the following year's release.
Comparability	Across Scotland comparisons of NHS Board areas should

	be made with caution as the differences between delivery of alcohol brief interventions in NHS Boards are likely to reflect a variation in practice and local priorities, rather than being a reflection of numbers of hazardous or harmful drinkers in a region or setting.
Accessibility	It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to <a href="#">published guidelines</a> .
Coherence and clarity	The report is available as a PDF file with tables clearly linked for ease of use.
Value type and unit of measurement	Numbers.
Disclosure	The <a href="#">ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol</a> is followed.
Official Statistics designation	National Statistic.
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	None.
Last published	June 2012.
Next published	June 2014.
Date of first publication	2009.
Help email	<a href="mailto:paulohagan@nhs.net">paulohagan@nhs.net</a>
Date form completed	10-June-2013

## **A3 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)**

### **Pre-Release Access**

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access and, separately, those receiving extended Pre-Release Access.

#### **Standard Pre-Release Access:**

Scottish Government Health Department  
NHS Board Chief Executives  
NHS Board Communication leads

#### **Extended Pre-Release Access**

Extended Pre-Release Access of 8 working days is given to a small number of named individuals in the Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division). This Pre-Release Access is for the sole purpose of enabling that department to gain an understanding of the statistics prior to briefing others in Scottish Government (during the period of standard Pre-Release Access).

Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division)

## A4 – ISD and Official Statistics

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

**Purpose:** To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

**Mission:** Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

**Vision:** To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

### Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

ISD's statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (ie assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (ie legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.