



## **Code of Practice for the Irish Statistical System**

### **Annual Report of the Director General 2021**

This is the 2021 annual update of the Irish Statistical System Code of Practice (ISSCoP). During the year the COVID-19 pandemic continued to highlight the critical importance of public sector data and data analysis to support evidence-based decision making. In view of this, ISSCoP is a key component in further strengthening the governance and quality of Irish Official Statistics.

The Statistical System Coordination Directorate of the CSO is tasked with the creation of the necessary coordination framework that supports the broader statistical system, assisting the CSO to meet its national (Statistics Act, 1993) and EU legislative requirements (Amended Regulation (EC) 223/2009) into the future. During 2021, the Directorate further advanced mechanisms to monitor compliance with the ISSCoP by compilers of Official Statistics and compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice by compilers of European Statistics.

There was considerable cooperation between the CSO and Government Departments and Agencies during the year in terms of commitment to best practice in the production of Official Statistics under ISSCoP. The number of public service bodies that engaged with the ISSCoP process increased from 14 to 17, and in early January 2022 the Environmental Protection Agency became the third public service body to be awarded the ISSCoP certification, in relation to European waste statistics.

CSO is very appreciative of the ongoing support it has received again during 2021 from throughout the public service, in the continued implementation of this significant initiative. This support strengthens our Irish Statistical System. On behalf of CSO I look forward to continuing this collaboration with all our partners into the future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Pádraig Dalton'.

Pádraig Dalton

Director General

Central Statistics Office