

Department of Education and Youth Statistics - Quality Statement

Overview

The Department of Education and Youth adhere to the core standards reflected in the Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviours, the Code of Ethics and the Civil Service Renewal Plan. These standards include the important principal of quality, along with other core values such as objectivity, impartiality and accountability.

Introduction

Education statistics in the area of learners (entrants, enrolments, graduates), teachers and expenditure are of significant interest to the public and are vital for the performance and management of the education system in Ireland. Trust in these statistics is vital for good governance of the sector and is critical for evidence-based policy-making. Trust in the quality and impartiality of these statistics is of paramount importance and this document outlines how the Department of Education and Youth adhere to the core principals identified in the Irish Statistical System Code of Practice, such as:

- Commitment to quality;
- Professional independence;
- Statistical Confidentiality;
- Timeliness and punctuality; and
- Accessibility and clarity.

General Information

The Department of Education and Youth participate in the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of a wide range of education data, including workforce data. The data contributes to an annual bulletin publication summarising key statistics of the education workforce for that school year.

Quality Principle

The core function of the statistics section within the Department is to produce statistics that are accurate, reliable, coherent and comparable. The statistics section is committed to being objective in its compilation and analysis of the data it produces and aims to disseminate statistics in a clear, accessible and timely manner.

Relevance

The statistics compiled by statistics section are provided in a timely manner for the time periods required. The data in the published bulletin has been carefully developed and expanded over time to provide a comprehensive picture of the education workforce.

Accuracy and Reliability

The data is compiled by professional statisticians who are committed to upholding the principles of accuracy and reliability.

Timeliness and Punctuality

The workforce data bulletin is published annually in January.

Coherence and Comparability

All the data included is drawn from administrative sources that are used to manage the education system and accordingly is regarded as accurate and reliable.

Accessibility and Clarity

The workforce data bulletin is published on the Department's website, in PDF format. The publication is signed off by the management board of the department. The key tables are available in csv format on this website also. All relevant tables are available for viewing as PxStat tables on data.cso.ie

Confidentiality

All data collected by the statistics unit is treated as strictly confidential. All workforce data is compiled by professional statisticians. There are data sharing agreements in place with all agencies who share data with us and the section work in full compliance with GDPR obligations. We do not make any microdata available to users. All confidential microdata is stored in a secure folder on the network / data hub and access is strictly limited to statisticians in the section along with economic research and evaluation staff in the department.

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