

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Revisions Policy

1. This document sets out FCDO's approach to revisions of its official statistics, which is in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics. It covers scheduled revisions, unscheduled revisions including corrections, and other changes to FCDO's National Statistics.
2. FCDO aims to avoid the need for unscheduled revisions to publications unless necessary and have put systems and processes in place to minimise their frequency, as described in Annex 3 of Statistics on International Development (SID).

### Scheduled revisions

3. FCDO publishes provisional and final statistics about the amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) the UK has provided for the previous calendar year, including of the ODA:Gross National Income (GNI) ratio, in Statistics on International Development. The provisional statistics, released in the spring, include preliminary aggregate ODA data, which is requested at that time by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The final statistics, which are released in the autumn, include more complete disaggregated ODA data. These final ODA statistics are also reported to the DAC.
4. Once final estimates of UK ODA, including the ODA:GNI ratio based on GNI estimates compiled by the ONS, have been prepared and reported to the DAC, we do not schedule any further changes to the estimates and there should be no need to revisit the period covered by them during subsequent reporting cycles.
5. The releases of the ODA:GNI ratio use the GNI estimates available at the time of publication. Estimates of GNI continue to be revised in line with the ONS's National Accounts Revision Policy. However, it is OECD DAC practice to use the GNI estimates provided during the reporting cycle, and not revisit the period covered by them during subsequent reporting cycles.

### Unscheduled revisions, errors and corrections

6. Revisions can occur for example when information is received by a data supplier following publication or conclusions subsequently reached by the DAC affect ODA classifications, when no further publication was planned. For example, a late return can be supplied, missing the original publication deadline or when a data supplier notifies FCDO that they have submitted incorrect information and resubmits this. In this case, a judgement will normally be made by the Chief Statistician or Head of Profession for Statistics as to whether the change would lead to users making a materially different

conclusion on at least one aspect of the ODA statistics. If so, a “revised” statistical release would be published immediately.

### **Errors in statistical systems and processes and corrections**

7. Occasionally, errors will occur in our statistical processes. We do everything we can to minimise these errors and continually review processes and procedures to minimise this risk. These are non-scheduled revisions, and like 6. above, the Chief Statistician or Head of Profession for Statistics will decide whether to correct and republish the figures immediately or wait for the next scheduled publication. The decision will depend on whether correcting the error found would lead to users making a materially different conclusion on at least one aspect of the ODA statistics
8. For unscheduled revisions, we will alert users immediately and issue a separate statement, explaining the nature, extent and handling of the change in the data in the statistical release.

### **Changes in statistical methodology or source systems**

9. Where there are planned changes in statistical methods or source administrative systems, we will inform users in advance of any changes in methods through FCDO’s Statistics webpage and may consult users depending on the extent of the methodological change being proposed.

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