

STATEMENT OF VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS (2018)

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY GROUP

JULY 2018

1. Purpose of the Statement of Compliance

1.1. This purpose of this statement of compliance is to provide transparency for users – by recording the way that the Greater London Authority Group and its functional bodies (GLA Group) is approaching the production and dissemination of statistics, in line with the pillars and principles of the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics (Code).

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>

1.2. The GLA Group is voluntarily adopting the Code.

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/voluntary-application-of-the-code/>

1.3. The GLA Group bodies signing up to the Code of Practice include

- Transport for London
- Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- London Fire Brigade
- London Legacy Development Corporation
- Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

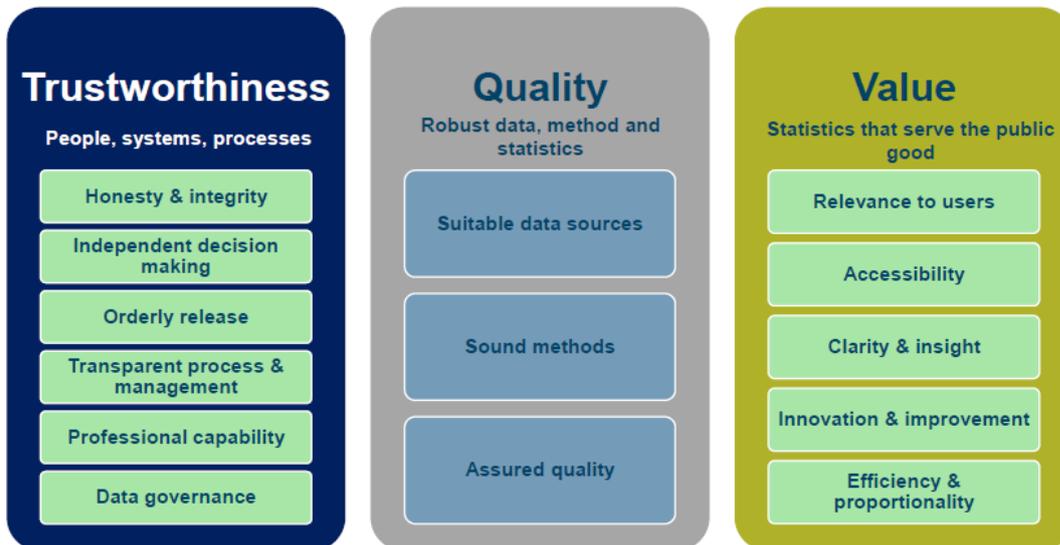
2. Why is the GLA Group voluntarily adopting the Code?

2.1. The GLA Group (this term is used in this document to refer to both the GLA and its functional bodies) are not legally obliged to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. However, the Mayor of London has committed to a transparent Mayoralty and voluntary adoption of the Code is an important part of that commitment. The Mayor wants Londoners and other users of GLA Group statistics to be confident that they can be trusted.

2.2. Statistics produced by the GLA Group are a valuable public asset for London. They drive the creation of the London Plan; help us understand the performance of key public services such as the police, transport and fire and rescue; and are used by the London Assembly to stimulate democratic debate and hold the Mayor to account. As increasing powers are transferred from central government to city authorities such as the GLA Group, it is important that government organisations work to common standards.

2.3. The GLA Group are committed to the pillars and principles underlying the Code, and to improving our statistics over time. This statement sets out our approach to adopting the Code.

The three pillars



3. Background to the GLA Group and functional bodies

- 3.1. The GLA Group comprises an executive Mayor and the London Assembly, which provides oversight of the Mayor. It includes the Greater London Authority itself and its functional bodies: Transport for London, the London Fire Brigade/Commissioner, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and two Mayoral Development Corporations.
- 3.2. The GLA Group remit is broad and its role and responsibilities are set out in the GLA Act 1999 and the GLA Act 2007. Specific responsibilities relate to spatial development, housing, environment, economic development, culture and health. In each of these areas, the Mayor must prepare and keep under review a strategy. In addition, the GLA has a general power to promote economic development, social development and the improvement of the environment in London. It has direct delivery powers in housing, land and regeneration.

4. The GLA Group approach to voluntary compliance with the Code

- 4.1. The statements below outline our approach to voluntary adoption of the Code. This includes adopting the three pillars of trustworthiness, quality and value, and the associated principles behind these. We are complying with full practices behind each principle as far as possible. For some of our statistical outputs, there is other legislation (such as the GLA Act) which drives the publication of our data.
- 4.2. In adopting the Code of Practice for Statistics, we are replacing the previous GLA Group 'Code for the Use of Statistics' published in 2013.

5. Trustworthiness – confidence in the people and organisations that produce statistics and data

- 5.1. Each organisation within the GLA Group is independent and has different lines of accountability for the production of statistics. Each organisation within the GLA Group

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reports to a Deputy Mayor. The London Assembly is responsible for oversight of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayors.

- 5.2. To ensure independent decision making and leadership, the GLA Group has a designated lead official for each organisation (these can be found below). This individual will be responsible for ensuring voluntary adherence with the Code.
- 5.3. GLA Group staff producing statistics are recruited from a variety of professional backgrounds based on a competency framework reflecting their qualifications and experience. GLA Group staff are often members of professional bodies such as the Royal Statistical Society and the British Society of Population Studies. Not all those producing statistics have the same level of numeracy but any work that involves statistical processes beyond simple aggregations of data from management information is overseen by suitably qualified staff.
- 5.4. The GLA Group will maintain a list of statistics, and publish an advance release timetable bringing together publications across the GLA Group.
- 5.5. GLA Group statistics will be made available to everyone at the same time on the London Datastore, and/or a clearly labelled section of the relevant GLA Group website. Statistics will be published on weekdays – as close to 9.30am as possible, and press and other policy statements will be issued separately to the source statistics. The GLA Group does occasionally make statistical data available to the media in advance of publication on an embargoed basis.
- 5.6. Individual GLA group organisations will be responsible for ensuring a transparent approach to engagement with users and stakeholders.
- 5.7. The GLA Group uses a range of methods to get feedback from stakeholders including user groups, and specific feedback exercises to evaluate the effectiveness of statistical processes and identify areas for improvement.
- 5.8. Each statistical dataset used by the GLA Group will have a Data Manager. This is to ensure that the data is managed in accordance with the best practice, principles and pillars set out in the Code, and in accordance with the organisation's statutory obligations. Data Managers will be supported in this role by the lead official for statistics.
- 5.9. The GLA Group has robust processes for governance and decision making. These include published policies for data protection, information governance and dealing with complaints. Links to these policies can be found below.

6. Quality – data and methods that produce assured statistics

- 6.1. The GLA has statutory duties to publish a range of outputs/reports on the work and achievements of the Mayor. These include a wide range of outputs from the London Plan to annual reports on equalities, education, and workforce reports. Data from the functional bodies are required to monitor their performance in delivering frontline services.
- 6.2. GLA statistics bring together the most relevant data available for London to inform the work of the Mayor. These are based on a variety of data sources – including official statistics and national statistics produced by central government for London, and our own service data. Official statistics for London that we publish based on central government data are already covered by the Code, and we only consider them as GLA statistics where we add significant additional value in our outputs.
- 6.3. We use recognised standards, classifications, definitions and methods where available, for instance we use the labour market framework for statistics on employment and economic

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activity, and the internationally recognised cohort component model for our population projections.

- 6.4. GLA Group organisations aim to be clear about our data sources, our methodology and methods when publishing statistics. We recognise there is scope to improve our reporting in this area for some statistics where we currently only release the data.

7. Value – statistics that support society’s needs for information

- 7.1. The GLA Group statistics provide essential data to support the work of the Authority, and wider public value to London as a whole. Examples include the population projections which underpin the London Plan, and support infrastructure and service planning, and monthly economic estimates to support business planning.
- 7.2. The GLA Group regularly reviews the relevance of statistics and data with users. We meet regularly with London Boroughs, and a range of other London organisations to discuss statistics through a number of user groups and other forums. Where required, we have developed outputs at the request of the London Assembly (e.g. pan-London estimates of demand for school places). When developing new outputs we liaise with a wide range of external organisations – from other government departments, London businesses (through London and Partners), civil society bodies and others.
- 7.3. The GLA Group participates actively on various government and other bodies involved in statistics production to ensure coherence between our statistics and those of other experts and producers (e.g. ONS household projections, ONS meetings on knife crime statistics).
- 7.4. Our statistics are published on our open data portal, the London Datastore (and on GLA Group websites – see links below). The London Datastore has been created to be as accessible as possible and in adherence to the GLA’s guidelines on web accessibility.
- 7.5. GLA Group statistics are free and open for anyone to use or reuse. We strive to publish detailed breakdowns of data tables while ensuring our figures are non-disclosive and statistically reliable. The London Datastore contains comprehensive metadata for all datasets. Any changes made to a dataset are recorded and can be viewed from the “Newsfeed” section of a dataset page.
- 7.6. We release statistical reports alongside our statistics for most of our outputs where this adds significant value to the data. These include both discussion of key findings and appropriate comparisons, visualisation, as well as advice and guidance about the use of the statistics.
- 7.7. Details of a data manager and contact details are made available for each publication
- 7.8. The GLA Group is at the forefront of many statistical innovations and improvements, from the development of the London Datastore, setting up a London Office of Data Analytics to bring together data from London’s 33 Boroughs, and in developing our population and economic models.

8. Further information and links to GLA Group statistics

- 8.1. Each body within the GLA Group independently produces a range of statistics and data. Details of GLA Group statistics can be found here –:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/code-practice-statistics-voluntary-application>

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8.2. General enquiries about the statistical work of the GLA Group can be emailed to: statistics@london.gov.uk.

8.3. General information about official statistics in the UK is available from www.gov.uk/government/statistics

8.4. GLA Group Lead officials

City Hall: Demography and Policy Analysis Manager

Transport for London: Principal Data Scientist

London Fire Brigade: Head of Information Management

Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime: Evidence and Insight Manager

London Legacy Development Corporation: Director of Governance and Assurance

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation: Planning Policy Officer

8.5. Links to GLA Group governance

City Hall

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/good-governance/our-procedures>

Transport for London

<https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/corporate-governance/code-of-corporate-governance>

London Fire Brigade

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/governance-london-fire-commissioner/>

Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/governance-and-decision-making>

London Legacy Development Corporation

<http://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-story/the-legacy-corporation/good-governance>

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/organisations-we-work/old-oak-and-park-royal-development-corporation-opdc/opdc-structure-1>