

COVID-19 OFFICIAL STATISTICS IMPACT



Qualifications Wales Statisticians collect and analyse data and publish official statistics to help us, awarding bodies and the public make informed decisions. The coronavirus illness (COVID-19) is a significant challenge to us all, and we are working with colleagues in other regulators and awarding bodies across the UK to respond to the immediate and longer term impacts of this pandemic on our society and education system.

This means we will need to change our usual operations, to ensure we are able to respond to this crisis as well as providing the necessary information when it is needed the most. We also need to consider what is right and appropriate for us to be asking data providers and respondents to supply to us at this time, given the pressures on key areas and staff. We have made and are continuing to make urgent decisions around which data collections can be reduced, delayed or in some cases cancelled.

The changes to our work and the impact on our data collections will mean that the production of some statistics may need to be reduced in scope, delayed or cancelled. It could also affect the quality of some of our other statistics, in terms of accuracy, historical comparability, or the level of detail available, such as less commentary or fewer breakdowns.

Decisions will be made on a case by case basis, prioritizing what is relevant to the current situation, and we will be open and transparent about decisions made and the potential effects on our statistics and research. We will publish more on this in the coming weeks as we make decisions.

Throughout this process, we will remain guided by the Code of Practice¹ in publishing official statistics, that are of public value, are high quality and can be trusted.

The latest information on our planned outputs or postponements will continue to be available on our release calendar² and the Welsh Government release calendar³. The Welsh Government⁴ have also issued a statement about their approach to statistical work at this time and the Office for Statistics Regulation⁵ have also issued a statement about their approach to regulating our statistical work at this time. If you have any queries, please contact the Statistics team at statistics@qualificationswales.org.

¹ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>

² <https://qualificationswales.org/english/our-work/research-and-statistics/upcoming-publications/>

³ <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/upcoming>

⁴ <https://digitalanddata.blog.gov.wales/2020/03/23/chief-statisticians-update-covid-19-and-the-production-of-statistics-and-social-research/>

⁵ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/osr/what-we-do/assessment/covid-19-changes-to-statistics/>

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