

## Quality Statement

### Overview

This document contains information on the Research Department of the RSA's approach to quality, particularly in relation to the creation of reports using the road traffic collision database. As background, the RSA was established in 2006 and took over the management of the road traffic collision data from the National Roads Authority (NRA) from that year onwards. Section 8 (1) of the Road Safety Authority Act 2006 provides the legislative basis for the production of road safety information and statistics by the RSA.

***The Minister may direct the Authority to collect, compile, prepare, publish or distribute to such persons (including the Minister) such information and statistics relating to road safety and the functions of the Authority, as the Minister considers appropriate, for national or international planning, policy research and development, monitoring and reporting purposes and may specify any matter concerning the collection, compilation, preparation, publication and distribution of such data and statistics, as the Minister considers appropriate.***

The RSA's Corporate Plan 2022-2025 outlines the organisations' mission and core values. The mission is to save lives and prevent injuries by reducing the number and severity of collisions on our roads. The safety of the public on the road network is at the heart of everything that the RSA does, and the organisational values underpin how the RSA works to pursue the commitment to making roads safe for all users. Over the period of this Corporate Plan, the RSA will live and embed these values through collaboration, innovation and commitment to excellence in service. The RSA's five core values are:

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Making a difference
- Service excellence
- Collaboration and partnership

The RSA is committed to developing evidence-based interventions to reduce deaths and serious injuries as a result of road traffic collisions in Ireland. As part of this process, the RSA's Research Department produces data and statistics from the Irish road traffic collision database that are relevant, accurate, reliable, coherent and comparable. Statistical outputs are disseminated in a clear and timely manner and are easily accessible to all stakeholders. Statistical confidentiality and data protection measures are also applied to the outputs that are disseminated where necessary.

## Quality Principles

This section outlines the RSA's approach to delivering on its commitment to several important quality principles when producing data and statistics.

- **Relevance:** provide relevant road traffic collision data to a range of national and international stakeholders at regular intervals throughout the year. The statistics produced are reviewed to ensure that they meet current and emerging user needs.
- **Accuracy and Reliability:** the Research Department quality assures the data that has been received from An Garda Síochána (AGS). This involves a range of data quality checks to ensure that the statistical outputs that are disseminated are accurate and reliable. Collision data is provisional until such a time as the RSA deems it to be final. This caveat in relation to the provisional nature of the data is included in all publications, and the reference date is always clearly presented in any report that is disseminated. All collision data in our reports is correct at the time of publication, however statistics marked as provisional can change at a later date when new information is provided.
- **Timeliness and Punctuality:** statistical outputs relating to road traffic collisions are produced on an ongoing basis throughout the year, and planned release dates for these outputs are documented on the CSO's Statistical Work Plan (SWP). This ensures that data and statistics are produced in a timely and punctual manner.
- **Coherence and Comparability:** outputs relating to road traffic collisions typically contain data from previous years and the data is presented in a manner that allows for annual comparisons to be made in order to identify trends by incident type, road user type, etc. Note, incidents that occur in carparks and other non-public roads are excluded from the RSA official figures per historic trends and EU convention. However, AGS may include these collisions as they record incidents that have occurred in public places. This means RSA and AGS collision figures may differ.
- **Accessibility and Clarity:** statistical outputs are easily accessible in various formats. E.g., road traffic collision reports are available on the RSA website, aggregated collision data can be downloaded from the CSO's PxStat tables, etc. From the perspective of clarity, methodological information, and other useful metadata forms part of the output to ensure that the statistics can be interpreted properly. Every effort is made to ensure that the content of the reports is presented in a clear and accessible manner. The dissemination of reports may also be supported by press releases, which summarise the key findings and messages from the publication in a clear and accessible manner.
- **Statistical confidentiality and data protection:** it must be acknowledged that the statistical products being produced by the RSA may contain personal data and information relating to both living and deceased persons. All staff working with the data are cognisant of this. Special measures are taken to ensure that the personal data of people involved in road traffic collisions is respected and protected at all times when creating outputs. This involves applying statistical disclosure control mechanisms where required.

### Continuous Quality Improvement

The RSA's Research Department is committed to continuously reviewing its processes and procedures to ensure high quality standards in relation to the publication of road traffic collision data. This is achieved through extensive engagement with a broad range of national and international stakeholders. From a national perspective, the Research Department regularly liaises with the Garda Information Services Centre (GISC), the Garda National Roads Policing Bureau (GNRPB), the Transport Statistics Liaison Group, and the National Data Analysts Network, previously known as the Formal Statistician Liaison Group, among others.

The Research Department also liaises with several international institutions as part of its commitment to continuous quality improvement, such as the Community Database on Road Crashes (CARE), the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), and the International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group (IRTAD).

All of these engagements can have very practical and tangible data quality benefits, such as improving the classification of collisions in the face of evolving transport modalities, such as the growth in usage of e-scooters.