

Dissemination and Revisions Policy

Overview

The overall purpose of this document is to provide an outline of the RSA Research Department's approach to the publication, dissemination and, when required, the revision of its collision and research reports. The document should be read in conjunction with our Quality Statement and other relevant documents.

Section 8 (1) of the Road Safety Authority Act 2006 provides the legislative basis for the production of road safety information and statistics using the road traffic collision database 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.

Publication

The Research Department of the RSA endeavours to publish all research reports which address collision trends and research on road user behaviour in the public interest, on www.RSA.ie.

Once the RSA Research Manager provides written approval of the final version of a research report, consideration is then given to the appropriate approach and timings for publication. Reports are published on the website in PDF format and are also available on the CSO PX Stat database at data.cso.ie.

Once the publication date for the report is agreed, the Partnerships and External Affairs Directorate takes responsibility for preparing a communications alert to notify stakeholders of the report publication and the alert is also translated into Irish. The Partnerships and External Affairs Directorate then sends this notification to all relevant stakeholders when the new publication has been made available online.

In addition, a notification will be sent to the RSA Head of Internal Communications, so that the publication can be shared with all RSA internal staff via the RSA intranet.

Dissemination

Depending on the nature and content, the report may be published online by the Research Department without any supporting PR. Alternatively, the report may be published online by the Research Department, accompanied by a press release developed by the Partnerships and External Affairs Directorate, linking to the site of publication and maximising the public reach for the report.

In addition, when disseminating certain reports, the RSA Research Department will generate PX Stat tables to support these publications.

Revisions

Planned Routine Revisions - Reports

The data contained in our reports will be provisional for certain years, and, therefore, subject to change as new information becomes available. The provisional nature of the data for these years is clearly indicated on the first page of every report. In addition, the reference date (the date when the data was extracted from the road traffic collision database) of the analysis is also indicated on the first page of every publication.

For practical reasons, published reports typically won't be revised as new information on road traffic collisions for a given year becomes available. However, this new information on historic collisions is incorporated in future iterations of reports. Provisional data will be updated to reflect the latest information from the database. All data in our reports is correct as per the reference date indicated on the first page of every publication.

Unplanned Revisions - Reports

Statistics in published reports may sometimes need to be revised due to the receipt of updated data that significantly impacts collision figures. In other instances, unplanned revisions may need to be made if a clear and obvious error is detected in a published report.

PX Stat Revisions

If a planned revision is made to a particular report, the RSA will make the corresponding revision to the PX Stat tables for that report.