Public Sector Employment Statistics Revisions Policy

1.   Introduction
In official statistics, revisions to published estimates occur for a number of reasons: from the on-going incorporation of late survey data, to occasional methodological improvements and changes in international classifications and standards.

Revision policies are used to manage the timing of the release of revisions to published estimates. The National Statistics Code of Practice includes a Protocol on Revisions which provides a broad framework for how the release of revised estimates should be managed. Consistent with this Protocol, this information paper outlines the revision policy and revision information specific to Public Sector Employment.

2.   Outputs covered
This revisions policy describes how planned revisions will be published. Arrangements for unplanned revisions are included as part of the ONS compliance statement. This policy covers all releases of the output, whether through Statistical Bulletin, News Release, Web Release or release of data sets.

The specific releases relevant for this output are:

- Public Sector Employment Statistical Bulletin;
- Public Sector Employment Web Release

These outputs are not market sensitive and the associated provisions in the ONS compliance statement do not apply.

Further information about this output can be found in the attached link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13615&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

3.   The cycle of planned revisions
This is a quarterly output and the planned revisions cycle will be as follows:

Category	Frequency	Scope	Reason
1	Quarterly	The previous quarter (t-1) and preceding year (t-4) will be revised.	• To account for late information from respondents. • To account for recent classifications to the public sector. • To account for errors made by external contributors.
2	Bi-annual (Quarters 2 and 4)	Estimates of employment will be revised for the NHS and Police. This will lead PSE totals for Central Government, Local Government, General Government and Total Public Sector Employment to be revised.	• To take account of the latest published NHS and Police statistics and to replace previous estimates.
3	Annual (Quarter 3)	Revisions will be taken back to the start of the time-series (where appropriate).	• To account for late information. • To update seasonal factors. • To account for any minor corrections. • To account for classification changes and re-referencing of survey estimates.
4	Undefined	Applicable to all time-series.	• To take account for improvements in methodology and unanticipated changes to time-series data.

Category 1, 2 and 3 revisions will be published at the scheduled release date for the output, i.e. revisions to first quarter data will be published with new second quarter data and annual revisions will be published with the third quarter data.

3.   Arrangements for advance notes and back data
Where category 4 revisions are planned a note describing the scope and reasons for the revisions will be published, three months before the revision takes place.

4.   Unplanned revisions
From time to time revisions will need to be made outside of this timetable. Examples of such revisions include improvements to methodology, revisions to data that feed into Public Sector Employment data sets and the discovery of incorrect data through extensive quality assurance procedures. Each of these revisions will be examined to see if the effects are significant in terms of the degree of change or whether the changes affect the story the data portray.

If revisions arising through improvements to methodology or changes to source data are found to be insignificant, they will be introduced in the next planned set of revisions according to the timetable above. However, if these revisions are thought to affect analysis or are sufficiently large, they will be introduced more quickly.

If incorrect data are discovered after publication, these too will be examined for their impact. Where the changes are significant, a corrigendum will be issued as soon as is practicable, while minor corrections will be included in the next planned release. In all cases a full explanation will be included as part of the release.

5.   Identification of revisions
Earliest revisions to tables are marked with an '†' and tables 1R to 5R, included each quarter within the Statistical Bulletin, detail all revisions that have been included for the current period.