



New Zealand Government

Position	Government Statistician and Chief Executive
Department	Statistics New Zealand (Stats NZ)
Position purpose	<p>Robust, impartial, trusted data and statistics and the insights they generate are critical to effective democracy, decision-making and accountability at the national, regional, community, family and individual levels. Effective use of data is critical to understanding what works, and to achieving a vision of digital government that encourages third parties to partner and contribute to innovative customer-centric services. Stats NZ is New Zealand's primary data and statistics agency.</p> <p>The Government Statistician and Chief Executive has a threefold leadership role in ensuring New Zealand has sustainable access to robust, independent, timely and trustworthy data and statistics for decision-making and analytical purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As Government Statistician: leads New Zealand's national statistics office, the Official Statistics System (OSS), and is the Government's principal adviser on statistical matters and measuring what matters for New Zealand. This involves being the official authority on statistical standards; the co-ordinator of statistical activities of government departments; and a major collector, guardian and producer of official statistics, including through the use of administrative data. The Government Statistician is also responsible for the design and delivery of the census. The Government Statistician also has responsibility for the provision of data services – including providing access to integrated data for critical strategic and operational policy decisions, research and statistical purposes and leading and championing the Government's open data programme. 2. As Chief Executive: leads and manages an organisation that is responsible for leading the OSS and for providing data, official statistics and insights that inform the Government and the community about the nature of New Zealand society, the state of its economy and its position in the world. 3. As Government Chief Data Steward: provides functional leadership for data and analytics, as delegated by the State Services Commissioner. The purpose of this role is to support the state sector to realise the full potential of data as a system asset while maintaining and building

public trust and confidence. This requires a networked approach that supports, encourages, and builds on innovative data and analytics expertise and trusted data use approaches at sector, sub-sector, and agency levels.

The Chief Data Steward will need to work with sector and agency leads to support effective data stewardship, including where services are provided by third parties.

Key external relationships

- Minister of Statistics and other Ministers
- Public Service departments and Chief Executives
- Government Chief Digital Officer, Officers of Parliament, especially the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, the Privacy Commissioner, and the Ombudsman
- Decision makers who rely on integrated administrative data for operational decisions, including those related to funding
- international statistical and data agencies and organisations
- Māori communities, iwi and organisations representing Māori interests;
- Other communities, and organisations who have particular data needs – including the LGBTQI, disabled, and Pacific and ethnic communities; and
- the business community, academics, non-government organisations and the wider community.

Performance profile

Critical success priorities

The Government Statistician and Chief Executive is expected to set a clear direction for the future and deliver results in the following areas:

- Make data more open, accessible and easy to use in the development of new tools and business models to allow New Zealanders to interact differently with government;
 - Support the Government's priorities, by measuring what matters for New Zealand's decision-making and wellbeing;
 - Work with and support the wider State sector to realise the full potential of data as a system asset, including focussing on approaches to build and sustain public trust and confidence in how data is managed and used;
 - Advise the Government on updating and improving the Statistics Act to reflect the current and future data and statistics environment;
 - Support the delivery of Stats NZ's core business of publishing official statistics and running the integrated data infrastructure to support research and decision making;
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- Lead the design and delivery of the next census, incorporating lessons from the Report of the Independent Review of New Zealand's 2018 census;
 - Ensure stakeholder confidence is maintained and strengthened;
 - Build and strengthen partnerships with Māori and iwi and drive greater collaboration with Māori and Pasifika groups, particularly in the development of data collection strategies;
 - Proactively provide assistance to government agencies to better use data and insights to inform their policies and service delivery;
 - Drive collaboration across the OSS, and engage stakeholders in contributing to maximising the benefits from Government's investment in official statistics and administrative data; and
 - Exemplify and promote a spirit of service within the Department.
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Accountabilities

Excellent leadership by Public Service Chief Executives is essential for a high performing, professional and world class State sector. Chief Executives are required to work collaboratively in a spirit of service and strive towards the overall goal of a system of world class performance, professional State Services, serving the Government of the day and meeting the needs of all New Zealanders.

As a chief executive in the New Zealand Public Service, the Government Statistician and Chief Executive will be accountable for:

- The Department carrying out the purpose of the State Sector Act 1988, the Public Finance Act 1989, the Statistics Act 1975 and other relevant statutes and legislation;
 - The Department's response on matters relating to the collective interests of government;
 - The stewardship of the Department, including of its medium and long-term sustainability, organisational health, capability, and capacity to offer free and frank advice to successive Governments;
 - The stewardship of the assets and liabilities that are used by or relate to the Department, including the stewardship of the information collected and held by the Department; and the legislation administered by the Department;
 - Giving effect to whole of government requirements on matters such as procurement, property management, ICT, security and privacy;
 - The performance of the functions and duties and the exercise of the powers of the Department;
 - The tendering of free and frank advice to Ministers;
 - The integrity and conduct of the Department's employees; and
 - The efficient and economical delivery of the services provided by the Department and how effectively those services contribute to the intended outcomes.
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The Government Statistician and Chief Executive is required to:

- Drive the overall performance of the OSS:
 - ensure official data and statistics are more open, accessible and trustworthy;
 - ensure New Zealand gets the information it needs, and that this is value-for-money at the lowest possible cost to government, the community, and suppliers of data;
 - provide direction to the OSS and engage other government departments to build shared ownership, minimise duplication, and maximise trusted reuse of data;
 - define and agree on the results that agencies will focus on together;
 - promote and uphold the principles and protocols for official statistics;
 - compile, analyse, abstract, and publish, with or without comments, official statistics;
 - define, promote and, where necessary, mandate the use of standard statistical concepts, procedures, definitions and classifications;
 - examine and comment on the interpretation and validity of published and unpublished statistics;
- Coordinate data and statistical activities across government, including setting statistical and data standards, reviewing and commenting on the validity of statistics, monitoring progress and performance, and ensure that action is taken if expected results are not achieved;
- Advise the Minister of Statistics on statistical policies, priorities, and the costs and benefits of statistical activities, and ensuring New Zealand increases the return on investment from Stats NZ;
- Advise the Minister of Statistics, and other Ministers as appropriate, on data policies, priorities, the costs and benefits of data governance activities, and ensuring New Zealand increases the return on investment from Stats NZ and the Government's investment in data;
- Provide excellent leadership and management of the department to ensure it has the necessary capability to perform its role, including:
 - aligning the culture of the organisation with the new operating model;
 - ensuring the right capability and relationships to deliver the outcomes needed;
 - stewarding a responsive, customer-focused organisation with the capability to influence across government agencies and the wider OSS;

- o ensuring a long-term view is maintained so that Stats NZ remains current and reliable.

Statutory Relationships

The Office of Government Statistician is established under section 13 of the Statistics Act 1975. Under the Act the Government Statistician is administrative head of, and controls, the department and performs the duties of Government Statistician as laid out in section 14 of the Act.

The roles and duties of chief executives are set out in the State Sector Act 1988 (especially section 32), the Public Finance Act 1989 (especially section 33) and other relevant statutes and legislation.

The Government Statistician and Chief Executive is appointed under section 37 of the State Sector Act 1998. The Government Statistician is appointed by the State Services Commissioner who is responsible for managing the employment and reviewing the performance of Public Service chief executives. However, in the case of the Government Statistician the State Services Commissioner alone confirms the appointment.

The relationship between the Minister of Statistics and the Government Statistician and Chief Executive parallels that between other Ministers and their departments in terms of the purchase of outputs by Government and the provision of advice. The Statistics Act defines the independence of the Government Statistician in official statistics, and ensures that the production and release of official statistics collected under this Act are not subject to external pressures. This is essential to give confidence in the impartiality of statistics produced. Section 15 of the Statistics Act states that the Government Statistician:

- shall have the sole responsibility for deciding the procedures and methods employed in the provision of any statistics produced or to be produced by the Statistician, and
- shall also have the sole responsibility for deciding the extent, form, and timing of publication of those statistics.

Increasingly the statutory independence of the Government Statistician is being leveraged to provide assurance of robust, independent and impartial reporting on matters of national significance. The Environmental Reporting Act 2015 requires the Government Statistician and the Secretary for the Environment to jointly produce and publish reports on the state of New Zealand's environment with the Ministry for the Environment.

The Government Statistician is required to be a member of the Representation Commission (s28 Electoral Act 1993). The Government Statistician is responsible for determining the number of general and Maori electorates based on calculations of the size of the general population and Maori electoral population (s35 and 77 Electoral Act 1993)

	<p>The Government Statistician is required to assist the Clerk of the House of Representatives to calculate whether the appropriate percentage of signatures of eligible electors have been collected as part of the process of certifying a citizen initiated referenda (s19 Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993).</p> <p>The Government Statistician also complies with the requirements and intent of the Privacy Act 1993, which contains a number of principles on the privacy of individuals. Other legislation particularly affecting the Government Statistician includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Information Act 1982 • Local Electoral Act 2001.
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Person profile

Position specific competencies	<p><i>The competencies outlined below are the specific requirements of the role at this time. To see the full range of capabilities required go to:</i></p> <p>https://www.ssc.govt.nz/leadership-success-profile</p>
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Leading strategically	Think, plan and act strategically; to engage others in the vision and position teams, organisations and sectors to meet customer and future needs.
Enhancing organisational performance	Drive innovation and continuous improvement; to sustainably strengthen long-term organisational performance and improve outcomes for customers.
Leading with influence	Lead and communicate in a clear, persuasive, and impactful way; to convince others to embrace change and take action.
Enhancing system performance	Work collectively across boundaries; to deliver sustainable and long-term improvements to system and customer outcomes.
Achieving ambitious goals	Demonstrate achievement drive, ambition, optimism, and delivery-focus; to make things happen and achieve ambitious outcomes.
Enhancing team performance	Build cohesive and high performing teams; to deliver collective results that are more than the sum of individual efforts.
Security Clearance	<i>Appointment will be subject to a New Zealand Government Confidential security clearance.</i>

Information on Stats NZ's outcomes, organisational structure, dimensions and appropriations can be found on the website <https://www.stats.govt.nz/>

Leadership Success Profile

