

Memorandum of Understanding between  
the National Statistics Office and the Directorate for Health Information  
and Research

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## **List of abbreviations**

EC – European Commission

DHIR – Directorate for Health Information and Research

NSO – National Statistics Office

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

MSA – Malta Statistics Authority

ONA – Other National Authority

Memorandum of Understanding entered into agreement on the 8/10/24 between the National Statistics Office hereinafter referred to as 'NSO' and represented by Mr Etienne Caruana; and the Directorate for Health Information and Research hereinafter referred to as 'DHIR' and represented by Professor Neville Calleja.

### Preamble

Official Statistics in Malta are regulated by the MSA Act and a number of EU Regulations in the field of Statistics. The NSO is set up by the MSA (Chapter 422 of the laws of Malta) and is responsible for the preparation of methodological and technical bases, data collection, compilation, publishing, and dissemination of data on a national basis and to Eurostat.

The NSO coordinates the statistical activities of all other national authorities that develop, produce and disseminate European statistics. They act in this regard as the main contact point for Eurostat on statistical matters. Legislation and well defined and established procedures are in place for implementing the coordination role at both national and European levels.

In collecting data, NSO relies heavily on administrative data sources. Regulation (EU) 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics which introduces article 17a, gives National Statistical Institutes and 'Other National Authorities' (ONAs) the right of access to administrative data, promptly and free of charge for the production of official statistics. This introduction puts greater emphasis on the importance that administrative data is made available for statistical purposes. The efficient access to administrative data ensures that the production of statistics is relevant, reliable, comparable, and less burdensome on respondents.

The Directorate for Health Information and Research (DHIR) leads the collection, analysis and delivery of health-related information in Malta. It provides high quality epidemiological information and indicators on the health of the population and health services. Health information is made available for policy and decision makers, for the public in general, interested institutions and others that may require it. Research initiatives are developed and assistance is provided to the Chief Medical Officer by contributing the necessary evidence for the formulation of policy and strategy in the area of public health and health services for both existing and proposed programmes. The close and well-functioning cooperation between NSO and DHIR is essential for the effective use of administrative data and for the continuous quality assurance. Therefore, in line with article 4 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009, the DHIR shall be recognised as an ONA in Malta. The DHIR will lead the collection, analysis and delivery of health-related statistics in Malta as per Article 2 of this agreement, and will also provide the NSO with the data listed in Schedules I, II and III of this agreement.

The NSO and DHIR will ensure that information shared by virtue of this MOU will only be used for statistical purposes; and will not be shown, disseminated and published in a way that persons and/or undertakings are identifiable.

### **Responsibilities and Functions of DHIR as ONA**

1. The DHIR is part of the National Statistical System, and for the statistics sent directly to Eurostat is bound by Regulation (EC) 223/2009 and by the European Statistics Code of Practice.
2. The DHIR shall collect and transmit to Eurostat statistics related to healthcare expenditure and financing, healthcare human resources, utilisation and facilities, and causes of death, including Statistics on health status and health determinants, collected through the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work and related Commission Implementing Regulations.
3. The DHIR shall publish a calendar, covering six months, of its dissemination products of official statistics related to Article 2 of this MOU.
4. The DHIR shall publish its dissemination products referred in in Article 3 of this MOU according to the date scheduled.
5. Should the DHIR not be in a position to publish its scheduled dissemination products referred to in Articles 3 and 4 of this MOU, by the calendar date set, the DHIR shall inform the NSO as soon as it becomes aware of this eventuality and provide justifications for any deviations from the calendar. The DHIR is to adjust the calendar and publish a note accordingly.
6. The DHIR shall publish the quality reports as instructed by Eurostat, on the official statistics transmitted to Eurostat, listed in Article 2 of this MOU, within 1 month from the date of data transmission to Eurostat.
7. The NSO may review the integrity, confidentiality, quality, handling and security of the data transmitted to Eurostat and that used in the dissemination products referred to in Articles 3 and 4 of this MOU.
8. The NSO shall continue assisting the DHIR with improving the quality of its statistics covered by this agreement in so far as resources permit.
9. During the processing of the data provided by the DHIR as listed in Schedules I, II and III, NSO staff may identify quality issues in the data which are of relevance to the DHIR. To allow sharing of this identifiable information to the DHIR, officers at the DHIR handling the data shall take an Oath of Secrecy according to the Malta Statistics Authority Act (Cap. 422 of the Laws of Malta).

### **Data transmission to the NSO**

10. The DHIR shall collect and keep records on deaths, maternities and injuries, and transmit the data to the NSO as per Schedules I, II and III annexed to this document and according to the frequency of delivery as stipulated in the same Schedules.



11. A list of variables including their definitions, used in this collection of data are found in Schedule I, Schedule II and Schedule III. Should NSO need to change, amend, or update the list of variables, this should be discussed and agreed upon with the DHIR and reasonable time is to be allowed for the necessary changes to take place once agreement has been reached.
12. Whenever delays in delivery are foreseen, the DHIR shall inform the NSO within the shortest reasonable time.
13. Data shall be transferred to NSO in the most secure way possible. The secure submission of data shall be through One Drive or other secure means as requested by NSO, which is provided by MITA to government e-mail users.
14. No transferring of data that falls outside the scope of this agreement, or without prior agreement by both parties, shall be allowed.
15. NSO shall ensure that all data provided under this MOU will be securely kept and accessible only on a need-to-know basis to officers of statistics who require the data to perform their tasks.
16. The DHIR shall inform NSO of changes that transpire from revisions, updates and reviewing of the data being provided to the NSO when such changes are significant and may affect the quality of the data being produced.
17. Should the DHIR change the compilation procedures and/or relevant definitions, wherever material, to the extent that they affect the quality or relevance of the data, this should be communicated, in writing, to NSO within the shortest reasonable time.
18. The DHIR commits itself to provide clear definitions for the population unit, variables used, and time dimensions, whenever these are not comparable with definitions of the NSO, and inform the NSO accordingly.
19. The NSO may review the quality of the data transmitted to the NSO as per Schedules I, II, and III of this agreement.
20. The DHIR recognises its obligations under the MSA Act, to provide the NSO with information as requested.
21. Due recognition to the data source of the DHIR will be given by NSO where this is feasible and reasonable.
22. This MOU does not preclude collaboration between the NSO and the DHIR on topics that fall outside the scope of this agreement.

### **Coordination**

23. While this MOU specifies some key coordinating procedures, it presumes continuing inter-institutional cooperation to complement these efforts. Therefore, the Parties agree to cooperation



and coordinate their efforts to the greatest extent possible to ensure the implementation of this MOU.

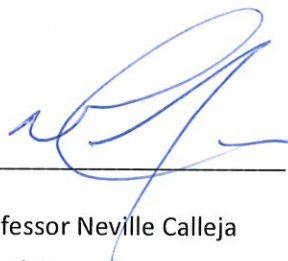
24. The contact point at NSO is Dr Dorothy Galea Gauci, Head of Unit Population and Migration Statistics, email: [population.nso@gov.mt](mailto:population.nso@gov.mt), Tel: 2599 7854.
25. The contact point at the DHIR is Prof Neville Calleja, email: [healthinfo@gov.mt](mailto:healthinfo@gov.mt), Tel: 2559 9000.
26. Notification of any change in contact points may be made in writing without the necessity of amending this MOU, but records shall be kept of the change in nominee and effective date so as to ensure the smooth running of this MOU.

### **General**

27. This MOU is valid for 12 calendar months starting from the date of signing of the MOU. Three months before expiration, the Parties shall initiate the process of reviewing and renewing this MOU.
28. The Parties agree that changes to this MOU may be needed to respond to emerging issues. This MOU can be updated, revised, or amended in writing as needed and subject to the mutual written consent of both Parties. Any update, revision or amendment shall be made by virtue of a written addendum that shall be annexed to this MOU.
29. Without prejudice to the obligations of both Parties to fulfil their obligations in particular the reporting obligations under both the National and EU legislation, this MOU may be terminated by the appropriate authority of either Party. Notice of termination of this MOU shall be made in writing and is to be received by the other Party at least ten (10) working days prior to the termination of the MOU.
30. The MOU shall be governed and construed in accordance with the Laws of Malta.



Mr Etienne Caruana  
Director General  
National Statistics Office



Professor Neville Calleja  
Director  
Directorate for Health and  
Information Research



Mr Joseph Chetcuti  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry for Health and Active  
Ageing

## Schedule I

### Data on Deaths

Frequency of delivery:

Monthly (provisional)

List of variables:

Variable name	Description
<i>mr_DHIFormNumber</i>	DHI Form Number
<i>pat_IdCard</i>	ID card number of the deceased person
<i>pat_PassportNumber</i>	Passport Number of the deceased
<i>pat_Forename</i>	Name of Deceased Person
<i>pat_Surname</i>	Surname of deceased person
<i>pat_DOB</i>	Date of birth of dead person
<i>pat_Age</i>	Age of deceased at death
<i>mr_DateOfDeath</i>	Date of death of deceased
<i>loc_name</i>	Town of residence
<i>mr_Resident Maltese Islands</i>	Whether resident in the Maltese Islands or not (true/false)

Frequency of delivery:

Annual

Period when requested:

First week of April of year n+1

Data to be delivered by:

Third week of May of year n+1

List of variables:

Variable Name	Description
DHI Form Number	DHI Form Number
Idcard	ID card number of the deceased person
passport	Passport Number of the deceased
Name	Name of Deceased Person
Surname	Surname of deceased person
date of birth	Date of birth of dead person

Town of residence	Town of residence
NSO town of residence	Town of residence [LAU]
Region of residence	District of residence
Patient country of residence	Country of residence
gender	Gender
Age at death	Age at death
age category	Age category [0 - 6]
type of birth	Type of birth of deceased [1-3]
gestation weeks	Gestation of deceased in weeks
gestation category	Gestation category [A,B,C,X]
birth weight	Birth weight of deceased
birth weight category	Birth weight category [A,B,C,X]
plurality	Plurality [0-3]
Residence	Residence [Malta/Gozo]
occupational status	Occupation of deceased [0-7]
married	Marital status [0-9]
date of death	Date of death
country of birth	Country of birth
locality of birth	Locality of birth
Country of death	Country of death
locality of death	Locality of death
type of place of death	Type of place of death [codes]
Nationality	Nationality
mr_Resident Maltese Islands	Residence in Malta [True/False]
LETTER	Type of resident [Foreign/Maltese/Non-resident]




Schedule II

Data on Maternities

Frequency of delivery:

Annual [provisional data file]

Period when requested:

First week of April of year n+1

Data to be delivered by:

Third week of May of year n+1

List of variables:

Variable name	Description
NL_NoisRef	NOIS reference number
Hosp_Desc	Hospital where birth occurred
INFANT_ID	Infant registration number
MotherID	Mother ID card Number
MOTHER_FIRSTNAME	Mother first name
MOTHER_SURNAME	Mother surname
INFANT_NAME	Infant name
INFANT_SURNAME	Infant Surname
Infant_DOB	Infant date of birth
LocDesc	Locality of residence
Mat_Nat	Nationality of mother
MOTHERDOB	Mother date of birth
MOTHERAGE	Mothers age
MARITAL_STATUS	Mothers marital status [0-9]
ISEX	Sex of baby [1=male, 2=female,3=ambiguous, 9=unknown]
INFOUTC	Outcome [1-6]
INFODOTH	Date of death



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Frequency of delivery:

Annual [final data file]

Period when requested:



First week of October of year n+1

Data to be delivered by:

First week of November of year n+1

List of variables:

Variable name	Description
NL_NoisRef	NOIS reference number
Hosp_Desc	Hospital where birth occurred
INFANT_ID	Infant registration number
MotherID	Mother ID card Number
MOTHER_FIRSTNAME	Mother first name
MOTHER_SURNAME	Mother surname
INFANT_NAME	Infant name
INFANT_SURNAME	Infant Surname
Infant_DOB	Infant date of birth
LocDesc	Locality of residence
Mat_Nat	Nationality of mother
MOTHERDOB	Mother date of birth
MOTHERAGE	Mothers age
MARITAL_STATUS	Mothers marital status [0-9]
EDUCATION	Mothers education level [1-9]
LB	Number of live born (excluding present birth)
SB	Number of still born (excluding present birth)
PARITY	Livebirths plus stillbirths 99 if unknown
DODEL	Date of delivery
SITEDEL	Place of delivery [1;Hospital/clinic;2;Home;3;Underwater;4;Other site;9;UN]
ITIMETOTEXT	Time of birth 24 hr clock
IORDNO1	Indicates birth order of multiple birth eg 1st twin 2nd twin
IORDNO2	Indicates multiplicity of birth 9 = unknown
IDOB	Infant date of birth
ISEX	Sex of baby [1=male, 2=female,3=ambiguous, 9=unknown]
BWT	Birth weight in grams
BESTGEST	Best estimate of gestation in weeks 99=unknown
INFOUTC	Outcome [1-6]
INFODOTH	Date of death

### Schedule III

#### Data on injuries (victims of domestic violence)

Frequency of delivery:

Annually

Period when requested:

Last week of April of year n+1

Data to be delivered by:

Last week of June of year n+1

List of variables:

<u>Variable name</u>	<u>Definition</u>
• <u>Victim ID Card</u>	<u>Last 3 digits of victims ID card and letter</u>
• <u>Victims Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date of birth of the victim</u>
• <u>Victim Gender</u>	<u>Gender of the victim</u>
• <u>Victim Age</u>	<u>Age of the victims at time of registration</u>
• <u>Victim – Perpetrator Relationship</u>	<u>Relationship of the victim to the perpetrator</u>
• <u>Victim Locality</u>	<u>The locality of residence of the victim</u>
• <u>Victim Nationality</u>	<u>The nationality of the victim</u>
• <u>Perpetrator Gender</u>	<u>The gender of the perpetrator</u>
• <u>Victim of domestic violence</u>	<u>Case included any form of domestic violence</u>
• <u>Type of Violence - Physical</u>	<u>Main type of violence reported is physical</u>
• <u>Type of Violence - Sexual</u>	<u>Main type of violence reported is sexual</u>
• <u>Type of Violence - Neglect</u>	<u>Main type of violence reported is neglect</u>



**ADDENDUM No. 1 TO THE MOU**

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE  
NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE AND THE DIRECTORATE FOR  
HEALTH INFORMATION AND RESEARCH AS AN "OTHER  
NATIONAL AUTHORITY"**

On the one part,

The National Statistics Office  
(the "NSO"),

and

On the other part,

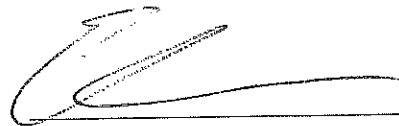
The Directorate for Health and Information Research (DHIR)  
(the "Other National Authority (ONA)").

By virtue of this addendum, both Parties agree to extend the duration of the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which entered into force on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2024, in line with Clause 27 for an additional period of three (3) years until 1<sup>st</sup> October 2028. Three months before expiration, the Parties shall initiate the process of reviewing and renewing this MOU.

All other terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding remain unchanged.



**Professor Neville Calleja**  
Director  
Directorate for Health and Information Research

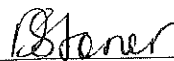


**Mr Etienne Caruana**  
Director General  
National Statistics Office



**Mr Joseph Chetcuti**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry for Health and Active Ageing

Witnessed by:



**Ms Deborah Stoner**  
Statistician  
Directorate for Health and Information  
Research

Date of last signature:

18/3/26

