
Director General for Regulation

Chris Roebuck
Head of Profession for Statistics
HSCIC
By email

25 February 2016

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your letter of 11 February setting out the situation regarding your community care statistics on social services activity. I am grateful to you for consulting with us in this proactive and constructive way, and for reflecting yourself on the meaning of National Statistics status in the light of questions over data quality.

Your letter raised the issue of whether it would be more appropriate for these statistics to be published without National Statistics status. Designation of official statistics as National Statistics shows that the statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. I agree with you that because of the uncertainties around the quality of the data in each of these situations, these statistics should not be published as National Statistics.

When you next publish the statistics, I would encourage you to clearly explain the nature and extent of the data quality issues, and the impact that they have on the statistics, in order that users can be fully informed about issues that may affect their use of the statistics. You should also ensure that the National Statistics status of these statistics is made clear in the publications, and that you fully explain the reasons for the removal of National Statistics status from them.

I am happy to include a full re-assessment of these statistics in our work programme for 2016/17.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Humpherson