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**Director General, Monitoring and Assessment**

Mr Peter Helm  
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31 July 2014

Dear Peter

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON AGRICULTURE**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 271 Statistics on Agriculture produced by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra).

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, the Assessment Committee has reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of the outputs as National Statistics. The Assessment Committee acknowledges the efforts of Defra's Commentary Champions, who appear to be contributing to a noticeable improvement with the commentary and other aspects of the statistical reports for the benefit of statistics users.

It is a requirement of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 that compliance with the Code of Practice must be maintained. We would invite you to incorporate the attached text in publications containing the statistics. This text may only be used where National Statistics designation has been awarded following an Assessment Report. It is intended to convey a strong and independent endorsement for the statistical publication.

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time. I am copying this letter to John Pullinger, the National Statistician.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

**Text that may only be used in publications that carry the National Statistics logo following assessment and designation:**

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.