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**Director General for Regulation**

Mike Prestwood  
Deputy Director  
Labour Market Division  
Office for National Statistics  
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NP10 8XG

4 December 2014

Dear Mike

**ASSESSMENT OF LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 273 on Labour Market Statistics relating to:

- Labour Market Statistics
- Business Register and Employment Survey
- Labour Disputes – Annual Article
- Average Weekly Earnings – Bonus payments in Great Britain

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, the Regulation 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 Regulation Committee acknowledges the efforts of the team involved in the assessment process to introduce a range of improvements to its statistical reports and supporting documentation. In particular we welcome the enhancements made to the Labour Market Statistics quarterly bulletin.

You may be aware of the monitoring review that we are currently conducting into the coherence and accessibility of income and earnings statistics. This review may include recommendations that are relevant to labour market statistics, and I encourage you to reflect on the review and its emerging conclusions once it has been published, as you seek to continually develop these important statistics.

The Authority reserves judgment on the National Statistics status of the remainder of the statistics covered by the Assessment Report. I would welcome an early indication of your plans to enhance these statistics so that they become fully compliant with the Code of Practice.

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, and to David Freeman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Humpherson', written in a cursive style.

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.