
Director General for Regulation

Gillian Reay
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7 October 2014

Dear Gillian

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON PESTICIDE USAGE IN SCOTLAND

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 282 on Statistics on Pesticide Usage in Scotland.

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, and on the advice of the Assessment team, I am pleased to confirm the designation of the outputs as National Statistics. The Authority appreciates the improvements made to the statistical reports and the supporting explanations. We particularly welcome the decision to seek advice from an agronomist in order to enhance the commentary and add context to the changes seen in the data over time. This designation is confirmed on the basis that the commentary in the Pesticide Usage in Scotland reports will be improved to match that of the draft report that Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) has provided to the Assessment team to date. I look forward to SASA publishing the Pesticide Usage in Scotland reports in an open format that equates to at least a Three Star level under the Five Star Scheme (Requirement 3 of the Assessment Report).

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 Roger Halliday.

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.