
Director General for Regulation

Alison Fisher
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2 February 2015

Dear Alison

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGLAND,
WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 281 Statistics on Vocational Qualifications for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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 *Vocational and Other Qualifications* as National Statistics. The Regulation Committee acknowledges Ofqual's efforts in strengthening its statistical capabilities in response to this first assessment against the *Code* and shares your view that this investment will bring wider benefits for the whole of Ofqual's official statistics portfolio. In particular we welcome your considered approach to merging and continuing to improve the statistical reports to better meet user needs, and how you are maintaining a continuous feedback loop with users. Also, we are very supportive of your plans to engage with other producer bodies using common sources of education data to develop a shared assurance strategy and we consider that this might serve as a helpful model for others. We look forward to seeing continuing developments in these areas over the coming months.

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.