

---

**Director General for Regulation**

John Pullinger  
National Statistician  
Office for National Statistics  
Government Buildings  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
NP10 8XG

26 March 2015

Dear John

**Assessment of Short-Term Economic Output Indicators: Preliminary Estimate of GDP, Indices of Production and Services, and Retail Sales**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report numbers 278 and 279 on ONS's short-term economic output indicators.

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 following outputs as National Statistics:

- *Gross Domestic Product Preliminary Estimate*
- *Index of Production*
- *Index of Services*
- *Retail Sales*

The Regulation Committee welcomes ONS's considered approach to the continuous development of statistical commentary in response to user feedback, and in particular the way that ONS has started a dialogue with users around measuring and presenting helpful information about uncertainty. Also, we are very supportive of ONS's decision to embed the principles of the Authority's Administrative Data Quality Assurance Toolkit into your ongoing Industry Review programme. 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.

Finally, for clarity, you will understand that this confirmation of the short-term economic indicators as National Statistics does not extend those statistics included in Assessment

Report 280, namely *Construction Output and New Orders*, which were dedesignated on 11 December 2014<sup>1</sup>. Our respective teams are following up separately on this matter.

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time. I am copying this letter to Nick Vaughan and Pete Lee.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-ed-humpherson-to-john-pullinger-11122014.pdf>

**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.