
Director General for Regulation

John Pullinger CB CStat
National Statistician
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

15 May 2015

Dear John

**REINSTATEMENT OF NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND
TOURISM EXPENDITURE SERIES**

Thank you for the evidence that ONS has provided outlining the actions taken to address the reasons behind the suspension of National Statistics designation on Overseas Travel and Tourism statistics.

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, and on the advice of the Assessment team, I am pleased to confirm the reinstatement of the output as National Statistics. The Authority appreciates the openness and timely notification from ONS, bringing to our attention an error in the expenditure estimates. We acknowledge the thorough review carried out by Tricia Dodd which led to clear recommendations for process improvements, progress against which formed the basis of our decision to reinstate. I recognise that comprehensive system tests are now in place, and the improved quality assurance of the underlying data. We also commend the steps you have taken to develop the contextual knowledge within the International Passenger Survey team through the strengthening of relationships with users and utilising other international data sources. We are keen to see the further embedding of these practices going forward.

It is a requirement of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 that compliance with the Code of Practice must be maintained. I would invite you to reinstate 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 Ed Dunn, Fiona Dawe and Tricia Dodd at ONS.

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.