

Sir Andrew Dilnot  
UK Statistics Authority  
1 Drummond Gate  
London  
SW1V 2QQ

25 June 2014

Dear Andrew

UK Trade Statistics April 2014

Thank you for your 18 June letter regarding the temporary de-designation of the April 2014 UK Trade release.

ONS acted promptly in removing the National Statistics logo from the publication itself and the landing page on 19 June, and included a link to your letter as requested.

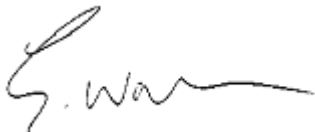
HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) provided the corrected data to the ONS team on 17 June, who then ran the production systems and quality assured the revised outputs to ensure they are consistent with the expected outcomes. The April 2014 UK Trade bulletin has been updated to fully reflect the omitted oil exports, and some other very small revisions.

We plan to publish the revised release on Thursday 26 June and I would be grateful for confirmation on whether National Statistics status can be reinstated.

ONS is giving priority to working with HMRC to explore how the quality assurance of trade in goods estimates can be further strengthened. ONS is meeting with HMRC on 25 June to discuss immediate and medium term measures to reduce the risk of future error, which will include the scope for ONS to have access to the microdata as well as the aggregate data.

I am copying this email to John Pullinger, Ed Humpherson and Caron Walker.

Yours sincerely



Glen Watson  
Director General for ONS