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**Director General, Monitoring and Assessment**

Stephen Penneck  
Office for National Statistics  
Government Buildings  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
NP10 8XG

2 April 2012

Dear Stephen

**ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL STATISTICS**

Thank you for the various emails outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in the following Assessment Reports (ARs):

- AR 73: Annual Employment Statistics from the Business Register and Employment Survey
- AR 105: Statistics on Life Expectancy by Local Areas
- AR 118: Environmental Accounts
- AR 137: Statistics on Births in England and Wales
- AR 152: Statistics on Marriages and Divorces in England and Wales

The Board of the Statistics Authority has reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of the outputs as National Statistics.

It is a requirement of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 that the Code of Practice must continue to be complied with in relation to the statistics. 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 Jill Matheson, the National Statistician, and to James Scruton, Claudia Wells, Stephen Hicks and Elizabeth McLaren.

Yours sincerely



Richard Alldritt

**Text that may only be used in publications that carry the National Statistics logo following assessment and designation:**

The United Kingdom 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.