
Director General for Regulation

Mr Chris Goodall
By email

20 November 2015

Dear Mr Goodall,

Thank you for email to the UK Statistics Authority on 22 October in which you raised various points about the availability of solar photovoltaic statistics published by the Department of Energy and Climate (DECC).

In your email you mention that DECC has stopped noting revisions to solar photovoltaic data beyond Quarter 1 2014 in its Energy Trends publication. We discussed this issue with the Head of Profession for statistics at DECC, who has accepted that the revision marker 'r' was not correctly applied in the Energy Trends table 6.1 in recent issues. This was an oversight and has been corrected.

You also mentioned the availability of previous editions of the Renewable Energy Planning Database and Solar Photovoltaic Deployment statistics on the DECC website. We are informed that DECC has only ever published the latest solar photovoltaic deployment table. Similarly, the Head of Profession for statistics at DECC informed us that their policy was to only publish the latest month's edition of the Renewable Energy Planning Database on their website, so that a new up-to-date edition would replace the previous edition.

While it is possible to request copies of previous releases from DECC via the contact details on their statistics homepage ([archived statistics](#)), we consider that prior data should be more readily available to researchers and the public. This would address the fact that it is not possible to tell whether previous months' estimates have been revised in the two series you refer to. One option would be to include parallel worksheets alongside the current data sets so that users are able to see the current estimates, but could also see the changes made.

We will continue to engage with statisticians at DECC, and will ask that they publish more detail about data revisions, quality and methodology, in line with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*. To improve the quality and value of these statistics, we will also ask DECC to consider publishing previous months' statistics on renewable energy and solar photovoltaic deployment. Publishing such information, along with improved signposting to indicate where historical data could be found, would be a helpful next step in the development of these statistics.

A copy of this letter goes to Andrew Ray, Head of Profession for statistics at DECC.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Humpherson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ed Humpherson