

---

**Director General, Monitoring and Assessment**

Norman Caven  
Department of Finance and Personnel  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
McAuley House  
2-14 Castle Street  
Belfast  
BT1 1SA

25 April 2014

Dear Norman

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON PESTICIDE USAGE IN THE UK AND FERTILISER USAGE IN GB**

Thank you for the correspondence from Stephen Jess outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 239 on Statistics on Pesticide Usage in the UK and Fertiliser Usage in GB by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland.

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, the Assessment Committee has reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of the outputs as National Statistics on the basis that AFBI will include clear links to the methodology papers in all future reports and continue to improve the commentary in the reports.

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.

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 Stephen Jess at AFBI.

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.