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**Director General for Regulation**

Robert Pike  
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21 December 2015

Dear Rob

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL CARE IN ENGLAND**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements for the Fostering in England statistics in Assessment Report number 285 on *Statistics on Children's and Young People's Social Care for England*.

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, I have reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of *Fostering in England* as National Statistics. The Authority appreciates Ofsted's efforts in strengthening its statistical capabilities in response to this first assessment against the *Code* and is confident that this investment will bring wider benefits for the whole of Ofsted's official statistics portfolio. I understand that you have already been rolling out new practices more widely, such as the development of quality reports and training for staff on applying statistical disclosure principles. The narrative presented around the Fostering statistics is also much improved over what we have seen previously. I look forward to working with you towards achieving designation of the remaining sets of statistics covered by this Assessment report in a timely, but managed, way.

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 Fostering in England statistics and I am happy for you to apply this retrospectively for the statistics published on 10 December 2015. 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 John Pullinger, the National Statistician, Rachel Skentelbery and Samantha Grant.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

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

### **NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS**

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm.

The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics, and to improve its statistics on a continuous basis. If a producer becomes concerned about whether its statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, it should discuss its concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

