

Director General for Regulation

Tracy Power
Acting Chief Executive
Department of Finance and Personnel
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST
BT1 1SA

18 February 2016

Dear Tracy,

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON POLICE RECORDED CRIME IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements for the statistics in Assessment Report number 301 on *Statistics on Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland*.

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 *Statistics on Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland* as National Statistics. The Authority welcomes the commitment shown by the senior statistician at the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and his team during the Assessment process and in their continuous work to enhance the presentation and usefulness of these statistics. We particularly welcome the transparency with which PSNI publicly demonstrates to users in its *User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland* how it has addressed, or plans to address Requirements from this Assessment and Recommendations from HMIC's recent inspection of Crime Data Integrity. We think this *User Guide* is a very good example of presenting accessible and helpful supporting information to users about different aspects of the statistics.

The Authority appreciates that the statistician at PSNI have been unable, despite best efforts, to present more-detailed analysis comparing police recorded crime and the results from the *Northern Ireland Crime Survey*, due to the difficulty faced by statisticians in the Department of Justice Northern Ireland to derive robust estimates of reported incidents for sub-groups of crime. We welcome the transparency shown in explaining the limitations of the survey data in this context, and in comparing the overall relationship of police recorded crime data to survey data in Northern Ireland with England and Wales.

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 John Pullinger, the National Statistician, and Tony Mathewson of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

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.

