
Director General for Regulation

Emma Rourke
Director of Intelligence
Care Quality Commission
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
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18 February 2015

Dear Emma,

ASSESSMENT REPORT 306: STATISTICS FROM THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE SURVEYS FOR ENGLAND

Thank you for providing evidence demonstrating the actions that you have taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 306 on Statistics from the patient experience surveys for England.

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, the Regulation Committee has reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of the four patient experience survey statistics for England that it assessed as National Statistics.

As you know this was the first time that the Authority has assessed the official statistics that CQC produces against the *Code of Practice*. The Regulation Committee recognised that this has resulted in the need for CQC to address a large number of requirements and acknowledges the commitment the CQC team has demonstrated to meeting these and achieving National Statistics status. The Authority considers that the required actions – in particular achieving a distinct voice for the statistics that is separate from CQC's regulatory function – have greatly enhanced the public value of the official statistics that CQC produces. The Authority particularly commends your response to its publication: *Administrative Data Quality Assurance Toolkit*¹ and we consider that your published *Statement of Administrative Sources*² might serve as a helpful model for others. I understand that you will consult a wide range of users and potential users in April of this year about changes to the programme of patient experience surveys for England and I would encourage this development.

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.

¹ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/administrative-data-and-official-statistics/index.html>

² <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/aboutadmindata.html>

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time. I am copying this letter to David Behan CBE, Chief Executive CQC; Mark Svenson, Head of Profession at DH and John Pullinger, the National Statistician.

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.

