
Director General for Regulation

Neil Jackson
Chief Statistician
Department for International Development
Abercrombie House
East Kilbride
G75 8EA

9 March 2016

Dear Neil

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 315: *Statistics on International Development*.

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 International Development* and *Provisional UK Official Development Assistance* as National Statistics. The Authority welcomes the programme of continuous improvement that the Department for International Development (DFID) is adopting in respect of these statistics, and in particular, the improvements in the data presentation and narrative provided alongside the statistics.

I welcome DFID's review of the Results Framework and your confirmation of the role of your statisticians in informing the design of the performance metrics. I am pleased to hear that you are considering ways of strengthening the arrangements for the dissemination of the performance results in the *Annual Report and Accounts*, to ensure orderly release. Please do update me on the outcomes of these efforts. As you know, I am keen to encourage public sector bodies to comply voluntarily with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* for categories of information and data that they do not regard as official statistics.

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 to Sian Rasdale and Jane Casey at DFID.

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.

