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**Director General for Regulation**

Robert Pike  
Chief Statistician  
Ofsted  
2 Rivergate  
Temple Quay  
Bristol BS1 6EH

9 May 2016

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 Children Looked after Placements by English Local Authorities 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 *Children Looked after Placements by English Local Authorities* as National Statistics. This is the second set of statistics designated from Assessment Report number 285 and the Authority appreciates Ofsted's continued programme of work to pursue compliance with the Code across its portfolio of 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.

I understand that Ofsted has been working with the Department for Education (DfE) to streamline and improve the quality and value of its data collections and that as a result, from next year, *Statistics on Children's and Young People's Social Care for England* will be discontinued. Instead, DfE will operate a single enhanced data collection and will expand its existing National Statistics, *Children looked after in England including adoption* accordingly. I welcome this joined up approach and consider that Ofsted's work to achieve National Statistics status for *Children Looked after Placements by English Local Authorities* will place DfE in a strong position moving forwards. Given the evolving data collection arrangements and the planned changes to the DfE National Statistics, I have asked my team to programme a future light touch Compliance Check of *Children looked after in England including adoption*, with a particular focus on quality assurance arrangements.

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time. I am copying this letter to: Matthew Coffey, Ofsted's Chief Operating Officer; John Pullinger, the National Statistician; Ian Bell, the Head of Profession for Statistics at DfE; Rachel Skentelbery; and Samantha Grant.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Humpherson', written in a cursive style.

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 Ofsted's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any 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.

