
Director General for Regulation

Neil McIvor
Director of Data and Analytics and Head of Profession for Statistics
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20 September 2016

Dear Neil

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 297 on Statistics on Winter Fuel Payments.

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 *Winter Fuel Payments* as National Statistics. The Authority appreciates that, while it has taken some time to meet the Requirements from the Assessment report, the statistical team in the Department for Work and Pensions has shown a positive attitude towards the assessment process, viewing it as an opportunity to improve the statistics. We particularly welcome the improvements in the data presentation and narrative provided alongside the statistics, including good use of charts, tables and infographics to enhance interpretation of the statistics. The Authority also welcomes the statistical team's improved documentation on users and uses of the statistics and quality assurance measures that are carried out on the data, and I look forward to the publication of the *Background Information and Methodology* document that will accompany the latest statistical release on Winter Fuel Payments on 21 September 2016.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and value and is something to be celebrated. We invite you to include a statement alongside the statistics which reflects this status. You may wish to base your statement on the boilerplate text attached to this letter.

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 Mike Jones at the Department for Work and Pensions.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

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 the Department for Work and Pensions 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.

