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**Director General for Regulation**

David Blunt  
Chief Statistician  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
SW1P 4DF

25 October 2016

Dear David

**ASSESSMENT OF DRUG SEIZURES STATISTICS**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 217 on *Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales*.

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 continued designation of *Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales*. I appreciate that the good work by the statistics team demonstrates the commitment made by your Director General, Paul Lincoln, in his letter to me of 23 May 2016, to address the outstanding Requirements ahead of publication of the latest statistics on 3 November 2016.

As with the policing statistics designated as National Statistics earlier this year, I commend the statistical team's increasingly dynamic approach to engagement with users and with police forces, and the improvements that this approach has informed, including the strengthened quality assurance arrangements. I would particularly encourage the team to continue to explore a proportionate approach to enhancing their intelligence about the police forces' operational processes for capturing data about individual drug seizures and the quality checks that they carry out on the ground. The user guide produced alongside the statistics clearly illustrates where such intelligence to date has been used to improve the quality of the statistics.

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 the National Statistics status. You may wish to base your statement on the boilerplate text attached to this letter.

I will be in touch again shortly, following my team's review of the evidence submitted by statistics team in respect of the Firearm and Shotgun Certificate statistics. This will then conclude Assessment 217. In the meantime, 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, to Paul Lincoln, Director General for Home Office's Crime, Policing and Fire Group, and to Kevin Smith and Jodie Hargreaves.

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 the Home Office'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.

