
Director General for Regulation

Jonathan Athrow
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Dear Jonathan

ASSESSMENT OF THE UK ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements from Assessment Report number 299 the *UK Annual and Quarterly National Accounts*.

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 *Second Estimate of GDP; Quarterly National Accounts; United Kingdom Economic Accounts; and United Kingdom National Accounts – the Blue Book* as National Statistics. I appreciate the very positive engagement between the National Accounts Coordination Division statistical team in ONS and the Authority's Assessment team during the follow-up period.

The Authority appreciates the significant work accomplished to improve the statistics in following up the Requirements from the Assessment Report along with the recommendations of the National Statistics Quality Review of the National Accounts and the Balance of Payments (the Barker review) and those arising from the Bean Review.

I commend ONS's increasingly dynamic approach to engagement with users, stakeholders and with experts, and the improvements that this approach has informed, including the additional published analyses and the strengthened quality assurance arrangements with the many suppliers of data used to compile the National Accounts. I look forward to these assurance arrangements being further developed as these relationships build and to seeing how ONS develops its communication of quality assurance to users based on its improved understandings. The range of developments to the statistical outputs particularly in the communication of uncertainty and the recent work on introducing a new purchases survey are particularly noteworthy.

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.

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 Andrew Walton in ONS National Accounts Coordination Division.

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 ONS'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.

