

Director General for Regulation

Glyn Jones
Chief Statistician and Head of Profession for Statistics
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
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25 October 2016

Dear Glyn

ASSESSMENT OF POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS FOR WALES

Thank you for providing evidence demonstrating the actions that you have taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 310, *Population estimates and projections for 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 designation of *Local Authority Population Projections for Wales* and *Population Projections for National Parks*. The Authority appreciates the positive engagement between the statistics team in Welsh Government and the Authority's Assessment team during the follow-up period. I understand that you are planning a further update of your quality information soon after ONS publishes details about its assurance of the mid-year estimates source data. This update will be important to ensure that users are updated about the statistics team's professional judgement in relation to the quality of data used in the projections and any potential implications for their use. I would therefore appreciate you informing the Assessment team when this update has been completed.

Following your recent consultation, you have told us that you no longer plan to publish mid-year estimates for Wales as a separate statistical report. It is positive that you feel able to respond to user feedback in this way, in order to optimise the allocation of your resources to best meet users' needs. I note the good progress made more widely by the team in terms of enhanced user engagement activities. In particular, the consultation on development plans carried out earlier this year, the establishment of the third sector user panel, and plans to establish a similar panel for users in the private sector. I encourage you to follow through on this ambition and to maintain the good work started in this area, so that this broader group of users can continue to contribute to the further development of the projections, and so that their public value can continue to be enhanced.

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 included in the assessment report.

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 Derek Jones and Andrew Goodall at the Welsh Government.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson