
Director General for Regulation

John Pullinger
National Statistician
Office for National Statistics
(By email)

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Dear John

As part of the agenda to improve the Health and Care information landscape I've been keeping an eye out for examples of excellence in the production of statistics. The initiative shown by the Office for National Statistics and Public Health England to ensure cancer statistics are trustworthy, of high quality, and of public value has been flagged to me on a number of occasions. I am writing to you to reiterate how impressed I am at this work.

I am particularly impressed at how both of these organisations have worked to improve the public value of cancer statistics and data, on both the processing and analytical¹ sides of statistical production. I've noted that two years ago the coherence of the cancer information landscape was potentially in danger, with diverging sets of information being published from ONS and PHE. I am very encouraged to see that both of these producers have been pro-actively working together to avoid this unhelpful outcome.

I'd appreciate you passing on my thoughts to the relevant teams within ONS and PHE, as I think their work over the past year and what I have heard of their future plans has been excellent and also serves as an exceptional example to others. I will be interested to hear of any future work to improve the cancer information landscape.

Thanks John.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

¹www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/cancersurvivalbystageatdiagnosisforenglandexperimentalstatistics/adultsdiagnosed20122013and2014andfollowedupto2015