

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation

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Dear Helen

ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL CARE FOR ENGLAND STATISTICS

I am writing to you in relation to the two sets of statistics – *Local Authority and Children's Homes in England Inspection Outcomes* statistics and *Children's Social Care in England* – which were covered in our Assessment Report number 285 on *Statistics on Children's and Young People's Social Care for England*.

I understand from the assessment team that following initial conversations with some users of *Local Authority and Children's Homes in England Inspection Outcomes*, you intend to run a wider consultation with a view to reducing the content of the bulletin or only releasing the raw data. As a consequence, you no longer intend to pursue National Statistics designation for these statistics. In the context of your plans, the initial indications of support from users, and given the additional resource and development that would be necessary to bring the current statistics up to the required standard, I agree that it is no longer appropriate to continue pursuing the National Statistics designation for these statistics. I would welcome an update from you about the outcome of your consultation and your plan for these statistics in due course.

In relation to the *Children's Social Care in England* annual bulletin, I welcome the changes that the statistics team has made in meeting the requirements to date, including improvements to draw out more clearly the strengths and limitations of the statistics in the published quality information and the content and presentation of the supporting data tables. I am also pleased by the team's commitment to improve the report's contextual narrative ahead of its next publication in July, with a view to the statistics obtaining National Statistics designation by this point. I look forward to seeing a further update on these developments so that we can make a decision on National Statistics designation ahead of the publication of the statistics.

I am copying this letter to John Pullinger, the National Statistician, Rachel Skentelbery and Samantha Grant.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson