

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation

Chris Roebuck
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Dear Chris,

Thank you for your letter of 1st March setting out the situation regarding your statistics on general ophthalmic services activity. I am grateful to you for reflecting on what public value means in the context of your overall portfolio of official statistics, and for both considering and consulting on specific aspects of your programme. I am also grateful for your thinking on the meaning of National Statistics status in the light of questions over public value, and around the forthcoming change in the comprehensiveness of the data that you will have access to.

Your letter raised the issue of whether it would be more appropriate for these statistics to be published as Management Information, without National Statistics status. Designation of official statistics as National Statistics shows that the statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. I agree with you that these data would be better presented in the form of data tables, and because of the specialist user need for these statistics, these data should be regarded as Management Information rather than published as National Statistics. I also welcome your commitment to engage with key users about this, and to continue to comply with as much of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics as possible.

When you next publish the data, I would encourage you to clearly explain the rationale for your decision to present the data as Management Information and to describe the nature and extent of the data quality issues, in order that users can be fully informed about issues that may affect their use of the data.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Humpherson