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**Director General for Regulation**

Donna McLarnon  
The Housing Centre  
2 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8PB

29 March 2017

Dear Donna

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSE  
CONDITIONS SURVEY**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 330: *Statistics from the Northern Ireland House Conditions Survey*.

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 *Northern Ireland House Conditions Survey 2016: Preliminary Report* as National Statistics.

I welcome the positive and constructive attitude of the team to develop and improve the trust in and value of these statistics. In particular, the publication of additional information on methodology and quality assurance arrangements that are in place will enhance users' understanding of the quality of the statistics and allow them to get the best value from them. I also welcome the publication of a revisions policy, a confidentiality statement, and a pre-release access compliance statement. This open and transparent documentation will enhance public confidence in the trustworthiness of these statistics.

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, Michelle Crawford at Department for Communities, and Siobhan Carey, the Chief Statistician in Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

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 a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics, and to improve its statistics on a continuous basis. If a producer becomes concerned about whether its statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, it should discuss its 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.

