
Director General for Regulation

Glyn Jones
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Dear Glyn

National Statistics Status of Welsh Social Services Statistics

Thank you for your letter of 18 October setting out the situation regarding your statistics on social services in Wales. I welcome the efforts that you have made to address the challenges that the new legislation has had on your statistics. I also welcome your openness about the ongoing concerns around the quality of these data.

Your letter raised the issue of whether it would be more appropriate for these statistics to be labelled as experimental when you next publish them. I am grateful to you for reflecting on the status of these statistics in the light of questions over data quality. 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 I agree with you that because of the issues around the quality of these data, the following statistics should not be published as National Statistics until you have appropriate assurances of their quality.

- Children looked after by local authorities in Wales
- Children receiving care and support in Wales
- Adults receiving care and support in Wales
- Wales Children receiving care and support census

I welcome your commitment to provide appropriate caveats surrounding these data and to seek to maximise the value of the statistics in the light of these limitations. I would be grateful if you would remove the National Statistics logo from the relevant statistical reports and the StatsWales data cubes, and include a clear explanation for users of the reasons for the temporary suspension, including a link to this letter.

I welcome your assurance that you will be reviewing the quality of the data for subsequent years. I look forward to engaging further with you and your team as you take your work forward, so that we can look to restore National Statistics status for these series once the previous standards have been restored. I would welcome an update from you on your quality assurance work in due course.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation