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**Director General for Regulation**

Neil McIvor  
Head of Profession for Statistics  
Department for Education

2 November 2017

Dear Neil

**National Statistics Status of Statistics on Children in Need**

Thank you for your letter of 26 October setting out the situation regarding your statistics on Children in Need in England. I welcome your openness in explaining the quality issues around the statistics. I also welcome your commitment to undertake a full review to ensure that you are able to fully understand and quantify the overcount.

Your letter raised the issue of the National Statistics status of these data. 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 I agree with you that because of the issues around the quality of these data, the statistics should not be published as National Statistics until you have appropriate assurances of their quality.

I welcome your commitment to provide users with a clear statement about the situation, and your plans to address the quality concerns. I would be grateful if you would remove the National Statistics logo from the relevant statistical reports and associated datasets and include a clear explanation for users of the reasons for the temporary suspension, including a link to this letter.

I look forward to engaging further with you and your team as you take your review forward, so that we can review the National Statistics status of this output. I would welcome an update from you on your review in due course.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

Director General for Regulation