
Director General for Regulation

Scott Heald
Head of Statistics
Information Services Division,
NHS National Services Scotland
(by email)

17 November 2017

Dear Scott

Assessment of Statistics on Scottish 18 week Referral to Treatment Waiting Times statistics

I am writing following my letter to you on 2 March this year in relation to our assessment of NHS Waiting Times in Scotland statistics (our Assessment Report 254).

I welcome your developments to these statistics, and note a range of further developments that will affect them:

1. You are still developing the way of publishing these statistics through the Tableau dashboards, which are intended to improve on the way the outputs are disseminated. Additionally developments are being made to data visualisation across the whole suite of Waiting Times statistics
2. You are still writing up the results of a data quality assurance exercise being undertaken on the source data
3. Sir Harry Burns' national review of targets and standards in Scotland, due to be published in mid November, may have an impact on the direction of travel of the 18 weeks publication

In light of the length of time elapsed since the assessment and the imminence of a number of developments, I consider that we should formally close down our follow up of this assessment. Once you have completed the various developments and you are clear of any impact from the Burns review, please get back in touch so that we can consider how to take the assessment of these important statistics forward. Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation