



Data and Analytics
Level 2
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Tothill Street, London.
www.dwp.gov.uk

Ed Humpherson

Office for Statistics Regulation

12th December 2017

Dear Ed,

ASSESSMENT OF DWP STATISTICS ON NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMERS (NINo) ALLOCATED TO ADULT OVERSEAS NATIONALS AND ACCESS TO WORK

As you will know we have been in discussions with your assessment team since February regarding progress made against the requirements set out in the OSR report for the reinstatement of National Statistics designation for the NINo series.

The OSR review has resulted in positive and tangible improvements to the series; in particular a new user guide to the statistics and better signposting on the statistics landing page.

However, we have reached a stage at which addressing outstanding requirements (particularly on further user engagement) would be at the expense of other key statistical developments for DWP.

NINo statistics are essentially a count of a DWP operational activity. On their own, there is not much more we can measure. However, many users find them useful as part of the overall picture on migration. Therefore, we are working with ONS and

other partners to help maximise public value from our data by using it alongside other sources. Given recent plans announced by ONS to improve the evidence base of international migration statistics using a range of Government administrative data, I feel our resource is better put into that endeavour than in improving the presentation of the NINo statistics in their own right.

Given that all OSR requirements must be met for reinstatement of the National Statistics designation, I understand that these statistics would not be rebadged as National Statistics.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Balchin', with a horizontal line underneath.

Stephen Balchin

Head of Statistical Services Division and Statistics Head of Profession for DWP