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**Director General for Regulation**

Glyn Jones  
Chief Statistician  
Welsh Government

24<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Glyn

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS FROM THE WELSH HOUSING CONDITIONS SURVEY**

Thank you for inviting us to assess the statistics from the Welsh Housing Conditions Survey (WHCS) against the Code of Practice for Statistics. We have completed the assessment and have today published our Assessment Report. I am grateful for the positive contribution of your staff and for their engagement throughout the assessment process.

The WHCS is the first national housing conditions survey in Wales since the 2008 Living in Wales survey. The value of statistics is clear: they will fill an existing evidence gap by providing up-to-date information on housing conditions. The statistics will be used to inform and support Welsh Government policies on housing conditions and other housing and environmental policies. We identified many examples of good practice in the development and production of the statistics. In particular:

- We welcome the extensive user engagement and input sought from policy officials and external stakeholders;
- The survey methodology is well-established and robust;
- We are impressed by the coherence of the statistics with those of other UK countries and their comparability over time; and
- We commend the strong data governance process that is in place for the WHCS and the transparency around user engagement

Our main concern relates to resource constraints. We found that resource constraints negatively impacted the team's ability to publish timely summary reports and affected its plans for gathering external feedback on the *Headline report*. The team has done well with the limited resource it has, but I would like to see you review and update your resourcing contingency plans in order to provide assurance to users in relation to future plans.

We judge that statistics from the Welsh Housing Conditions Survey can be designated as new National Statistics (NS) once you have met the Requirements outlined in the Assessment Report. This will demonstrate that your statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. You are due to report back to us by 2 November 2018 outlining how you have addressed the Requirements.

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with me or my team at any time.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Humpherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Ed Humpherson  
Director General for Regulation