
Director General, Monitoring and Assessment

Sheila Ward
Forestry Commission
Silvan House
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT

23 July 2012

Dear Sheila

ASSESSMENT OF FORESTRY STATISTICS

Thank you for your email of 31 May, outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report 181 on Forestry Statistics.

The Board of the Statistics Authority has reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of the outputs as National Statistics.

With specific regard to:

- Requirement 4: Provide more information about the quality of its statistics in relation to use and potential use;
- Requirement 5: Indicate clearly which statistics in Forestry Statistics and Forestry Facts and Figures are not National Statistics and ensure that they are of sufficient quality to meet users' needs; and
- Requirement 7: Improve the commentary and contextual information in the releases so that it aids user understanding;

we have noted the steps that you have taken and the further steps that you plan to take, and the designation is confirmed on that basis.

It is a requirement of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 that the Code of Practice must continue to be complied with in relation to the statistics. We would invite you to incorporate the attached text in publications containing the statistics. This text may only be used where National Statistics designation has been awarded following an Assessment Report. It is intended to convey a strong and independent endorsement for the statistical publication.

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time. I am copying this letter to Jil Matheson, the National Statistician.

Yours sincerely



Richard Alldritt

Text that may only be used in publications that carry the National Statistics logo following assessment and designation:

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.