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**Director General for Regulation**

John Pullinger CB CStat  
National Statistician  
UK Statistics Authority  
1 Drummond Gate  
London  
SW1V 2QQ

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Dear John

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS FROM THE NATIONAL BEREAVEMENT SURVEY**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken so far to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 275 on Statistics from the National Bereavement Survey. We recognise that the team has been working positively towards meeting the requirements, by obtaining feedback from users, updating the metadata about quality and improving the statistical reports. This is against the backdrop of the limited funding available from NHS England to comply with all aspects of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*.

We understand that NHS England is about to consult on the future of these statistics. The next annual survey will be the last in its current form and possibly the last that ONS runs if it does not win the tender for the contract in 2016. Taken together, I have agreed with the statistical team's view that it would not be a sensible use of scarce resource to improve methods for the last remaining survey run, and that the assessment should be closed without conferring the National Statistics designation on these statistics.

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time. I am copying this letter to Guy Goodwin and to Jennet Woolford.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson