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**Director General for Regulation**

Dr Norman Caven  
Chief Executive & Registrar General for Northern Ireland  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
McAuley House  
2-14 Castle Street  
Belfast, BT1 1SA

24 March 2015

Dear Norman

**Assessment of Driver and Vehicle Statistics in Northern Ireland**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report 293 on Driver and Vehicle Statistics in Northern Ireland.

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, I have reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of the following outputs as National Statistics:

*Driver, Vehicle, Operator and Enforcement Statistics – Annual*  
*Driver, Vehicle, Operator and Enforcement Statistics – Quarterly*

I would like to note the efforts of the statistical team who engaged enthusiastically with the process from the start and worked hard to introduce a range of improvements to its products particularly around the areas of user engagement and the quality assurance of underlying administrative data. One result from these actions was the publication of a new quality assessment document. We understand that DOE will continue to make improvements to this document with a view to publishing a revised version along with its annual release in June.

I would like to acknowledge the work done to introduce a quarterly time series for some of the key statistics including driver testing, driver licensing and enforcement with the intention to extend this further across other statistics. Also noteworthy is the publication of some of the ad-hoc analysis that the team carries out which makes very interesting reading and enhances the user experience.

It is a requirement of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 that compliance with the Code of Practice must be maintained. 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 John Pullinger, the National Statistician, and to Martin Mayock and Manny Fitzpatrick at the Department of the Environment.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

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

The UK 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.