
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Secretary of State for Schools
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
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5 August 2015

Dear Mr Gibb

ASSESSMENT REPORT 289: SCHOOL-LEVEL EXAMINATION STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND

Your predecessor as Minister for Schools, David Laws MP, wrote to me with reference to the publication of the Authority's Assessment report number 289 concerning School-level examination statistics for England, committing your officials to work towards their designation as National Statistics.

I am pleased to say that the UK Statistics Authority's Regulation Committee – acting on behalf of the Board – has confirmed that these statistics should be designated as National Statistics. This is the first time the Authority has considered statistics that are presented as part of an interactive web-based tool and their National Statistics status indicates to users that they meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

The Regulation Committee welcomed the commitment of the responsible team in DfE to achieving National Statistics status and to continuing the programme of improvements. In particular the Authority commends your officials' response to its publication: *Administrative Data Quality Assurance Toolkit*¹ and we consider that your published *Statement of Administrative Sources*² might serve as a helpful model for others.

I am copying this letter to Chris Wormald, Permanent Secretary. The Authority's Director General for Regulation, Ed Humpherson, has written separately to Iain Bell, Director for Education and Data Standards Analysis to confirm the designation of School-level examination statistics for England – as reported in the school and college performance tables – as National Statistics.

Yours sincerely

Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

¹ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring/administrative-data-and-official-statistics/index.html>

² <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/aboutadmindata.html>