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**Director General for Regulation**

Martin Stopher  
Head of Profession for Statistics  
Cabinet Office  
By email

16 December 2015

Dear Martin,

Following our discussions, I am writing to confirm the National Statistics designation of Freedom of Information statistics, upon their transfer to the Cabinet Office. I welcome the outline of your commitment to fully comply with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* in respect of these statistics, and to uphold the values of trustworthiness, quality and value that underpin National Statistics status.

Given that we have not formally assessed these statistics against the Code of Practice, we consider that it would be appropriate for you to explain their status clearly in the statistical reports, and in any accompanying material. We suggest that you use the following text: "These statistics have not been formally assessed for compliance with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* since their transfer from the Ministry of Justice. The UK Statistics Authority is planning to assess the statistics for compliance with the *Code of Practice* in the near future."

I would appreciate early and regular updates from you on the various developments that you outlined in our discussions - on user engagement, quality assurance and the future development of these statistics. We will take these developments into account as part of the re-assessment of the statistics. I will ensure that there is space within our work programme to carry out the re-assessment early in 2016. I will ask my Assessment Programme Manager to liaise directly with you to make arrangements to schedule the work.

I am copying this letter to the National Statistician, John Pullinger.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Humpherson