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**Director General, Monitoring and Assessment**

Caron Walker  
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14 January 2013

Dear Caron

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCES**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 144 Statistics on Public Sector Finances.

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 5, the confirmation is given on the basis of the further work that is planned to improve the information that is provided about the quality of the statistics in the statistical bulletin *Government Deficit and Debt under the Maastricht Treaty*.
- Requirement 6, the confirmation is given on the basis of the further work that is planned to improve the presentation and commentary that accompanies the statistics.

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, Glen Watson, Director General of ONS, Chris Daffin of ONS and Tom Orford of HM Treasury.

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.