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**Director General, Monitoring and Assessment**

Tom Orford  
Head of Expenditure Monitoring Branch  
PSF team, Area 3/E2  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guard's Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

14 January 2013

Dear Tom

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE**

Thank you for the various emails outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 145 on Statistics on Public Sector Expenditure. The Board of the Statistics Authority was pleased to see that the sets of statistics in two of the three outputs reviewed in the Assessment Report were assessed as complying with the Code of Practice:

- Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis; and
- Public Expenditure Outturns

I note that these two outputs have since been reconfigured as three outputs: the annual Public Spending Statistics; quarterly updates to Public Spending Statistics; and the annual Country and Regional Analysis. The National Statistics designation confirmed in this letter will apply to each of these.

With specific regard to Requirement 7, the confirmation is given on the basis of the further work that is planned to update and review the production and quality assurance procedures for producing the statistics as part of 'project OSCAR'; and the commitment that you have given to publish full details of the updated procedures by July 2013.

Assessment Report number 145 also covered UK Official Holdings of International Reserves, which has not yet met the Requirements in the report.

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.

I am copying this letter to Jil Matheson, the National Statistician.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Alldritt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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.