
Director General, Monitoring and Assessment

Kate Chamberlain
Welsh Assembly Government
Room 2-006
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

23 July 2012

Dear Kate

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON BIRTHS, INFANT MORTALITY AND TEENAGE
CONCEPTIONS IN WALES**

Thank you for your emails outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report 167 - Statistics on Births, Infant Mortality and Teenage Conceptions in Wales.

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 1: Take steps to develop a greater understanding of the use made of the statistics, publish the relevant information and assumptions, and use them to better support the use of the statistics;
- Requirement 4: Improve the signposting to specific issues within the information about the quality of the births, infant mortality and teenage conceptions statistics published by ONS, including strengths and limitations in relation to use; and ensure that users are informed of the main sources of error and bias; and
- Requirement 6: Improve the commentary in the releases so that it aids user interpretation of the statistics;

we have noted the steps that you have taken and the further steps that you plan to take, and the designation is confirmed on that basis.

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, and to Glyn Jones and Dr Gwyneth Thomas.

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.