
Director General, Monitoring and Assessment

Scott Heald
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25 April 2014

Dear Scott

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON HOSPITAL STANDARDISED MORTALITY RATIOS
AND NHS COMPLAINTS IN SCOTLAND**

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 249 on Statistics on Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios and NHS Complaints in Scotland by the Information Services Division, NHS National Services Scotland.

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, the Assessment Committee has reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of the outputs as National Statistics. The Assessment Committee welcomes your constructive approach to addressing the requirements, and I am particularly appreciative of your work to explain to users the difficulties in producing these statistics consistently and in comparing them across the UK.

It is a requirement of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 that compliance with the Code of Practice must be maintained. 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 Jill Matheson, the National Statistician and Nicola Rigglesford.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

Text that may only be used in publications that carry the National Statistics logo following assessment and designation:

The UK 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.