
Director General, Monitoring and Assessment

Siobhan Carey
Head of Profession for Statistics
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Economic and Policy Analysis (EPA)
Bay 620
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

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Dear Siobhan

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON STUDENT SUPPORT AND STUDENT LOANS

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 259 on Statistics on Student Support and Student Loans by the Student Loans Company and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

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. I am appreciative, in particular, of the systematic review that SLC has undertaken of its statistical outputs, and the plans that it has to discuss the proposed improvements with users prior to publication. This designation is confirmed on the basis that the commentary in SLC's statistical reports will be improved to the standard matching that of the draft commentary that has been provided to the Assessment team to date.

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 Jil Matheson, the National Statistician, and to Les Campbell and Dave Cartwright at SLC.

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.