
Director General, Monitoring and Assessment

Mr Martin Smith
Senior Director - Institutions and Corporate Services
Scottish Funding Council
Donaldson House
97 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HD

17 June 2014

Dear Martin

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 255 on Statistics on Further and Higher Education in 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 acknowledges the efforts of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), not just to maintain, but to continue the improvements which the Scottish Government introduced to the Lifelong Learning statistical outputs that it published previously. A clear commitment by SFC was evident throughout the assessment and follow up to engage actively with the Authority to improve the whole suite of National Statistics for which it is now responsible.

In respect to *Participation Rates for Entrants to Scottish Higher Education* confirmation of designation is based upon your commitment to improve the explanation of the calculation of the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate as well as the accompanying commentary and contextual information in this release at least to the standard of that in *Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions*.

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 Roger Halliday at the Scottish Government.

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.