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Director General, Monitoring and Assessment

Norman Caven Director of Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency McAuley House 2-14 Castle Street BELFAST BT1 1SA

30 January 2014

Dear Norman

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Thank you for the correspondence outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 263 on Statistics on the Environment and Waste Management in Northern Ireland produced by the Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.

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. This designation is confirmed on the basis that the commentary and quality information for the indicators in the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report will be improved to match that of the draft indicators that the Department of the Environment has 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 Martin Mayock of the Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely

Bl Haften

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.