
Director General, Monitoring and Assessment

Roger Halliday
Scottish Government
Room: 1N03
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

21 June 2012

Dear Roger

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON LIFELONG LEARNING IN SCOTLAND

Thank you for Lynn Graham's emails of 31 March and 21 October 2011, outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report 75 on Lifelong Learning in Scotland. I am sorry for the delay in responding to you, while we discussed the status of the Student Loans statistics with the Student Loans Company (SLC).

The Board of the Statistics Authority has reviewed the actions on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation as National Statistics of those outputs for which the Scottish Government remains responsible.

With specific regard to the Requirement to improve the presentation, commentary and analysis, 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. Those outputs for which responsibility has been transferred to the Scottish Funding Council will be the subject of a further assessment to determine whether they can continue to be designated as National Statistics.

You confirmed that responsibility for the Student Loans for Higher Education publication now lies with SLC; we are in separate discussions with SLC regarding the ongoing designation of these statistics as National Statistics.

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 Jill Matheson, the National Statistician, and to Lynn Graham.

Yours sincerely



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.