
Head of Assessment, Richard Alldritt

Gill Eastabrook
Department of Health
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Dear Gill

ASSESSMENT OF 18 WEEKS REFERRAL TO TREATMENT STATISTICS

Thank you for Rob Stones's and John Bates's emails of 31 March, outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in assessment report number 21 on 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment Statistics.

The Board of the Statistics Authority has reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of the outputs as National Statistics.

Regarding the Requirement to release regular summary publications we welcome the introduction of the new annual report; however we think it may be possible to make some improvements and we will follow this up through the National Statistician's Office.

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 Jil Matheson, the National Statistician.

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.