

---

**Head of Assessment, Richard Alldritt**

Malcolm Britton  
Department for Children, Schools and Families  
Mowden Hall  
Staindrop Road  
Darlington  
DL3 9BG

10 May 2010

Dear Malcolm

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER BY LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND**

Thank you for Stephen Cook's email of 25 March, outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in assessment report number 13 on Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England.

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 improve the commentary in your publication, we have noted your plans and are confirming designation on this basis. Please send us a link to the publication when it is released, so that we can review. On the UK Requirement, we would welcome an update when the work to assess the feasibility of and need for comparable UK data is complete.

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.