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**Director General for Regulation**

Glyn Jones  
Chief Statistician  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

25 February 2015

Dear Glyn,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 February setting out the situation regarding your data on fly-tipping in Wales. I am very grateful to you for consulting with us in this proactive and constructive way. I am particularly grateful to you for bringing to our attention a set of statistics where, reflecting upon the Authority's guidance on quality assurance of data from administrative sources, you do not feel comfortable that you are fully complying with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. I was pleased to see that, although you have doubts about the quality of the data, you are keen to ensure transparency in the reporting of data about fly-tipping in Wales.

Your letter invited me to consider whether it would be appropriate for the Authority to agree that the reinstatement of the publication of fly-tipping data should be as official statistics, rather than National Statistics. Designation of official statistics as National Statistics shows that the statistics meet the needs of users and that the statistics are produced, managed, and disseminated to high standards in compliance with the Code of Practice. Having reviewed the information that you have shared with us, I agree with you that future publications of the fly-tipping data should not be designated as National Statistics. To endorse your endeavours regarding transparency, I encourage you to be open and honest about the limitations of the data when you publish them, in order that their potential misuse can be minimised.

Once again, I am very grateful to you for the way in which you have brought these matters to our attention. I, or Mark Pont in my team, would be happy to discuss further with you as necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Humpherson