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**Director General, Monitoring and Assessment**

Stephen Penneck  
Government Buildings  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
NP10 8XG

17 January 2011

Dear Stephen

**ONS Exemption to the Code of Practice – Protocol 2.4**

Thank you for clarifying the position regarding the outstanding requirements about releasing statistics at 9.30am.

I am content that a partial exemption can be agreed without referring the matter to the Authority Board. In practice, for those sets of statistics that have been conditionally designated following assessment, the 'conditionality' will continue until the release arrangements on the new website have been shown to be in line with the Code. The Authority could not insist on 09.30 for other departments but accept something less clear-cut in the case of ONS. The exemption is restricted solely to the date for implementation, not the interpretation of the Code which remains the same for all producers.

We will continue to refer to the ongoing situation in relevant Assessment Reports to be published during the period of the exemption. In doing so, we will refer to the fact that an exemption has been agreed up until the implementation date. We will also place your letter and this response on the exemptions page of our website.

I am copying this letter to Jil Matheson, the National Statistician.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Alldritt**