
Director General, Monitoring and Assessment, Richard Alldritt

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Dear Norman

**EXEMPTION TO THE CODE OF PRACTICE – PROTOCOL 2.4 – NORTHERN IRELAND
WEEKLY AGRICULTURE MARKET REPORT**

Thank you for your letter of 23 September 2011 requesting an exemption from Protocol 2.4 of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in order that you can continue to release the weekly Agricultural Market Report as soon as it is available on Thursday afternoons, rather than wait until 9.30am the following day.

Having taken soundings at the Assessment Committee, which is the Statistics Authority committee responsible for assessments of compliance with the Code, I can confirm our agreement to an exemption. In reaching this decision, we took account of the weekly cycle of the statistics; the long established practice in terms of timing (which we accept reflects user needs); and the low risk of public controversy. So this should not be seen as setting a precedent for any statistics that do not meet these very specific criteria.

We are content that the arrangements for releasing these statistics in this way do not breach any other aspect of the Code.

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

Yours sincerely



Richard Alldritt