
Director General for Regulation

John Pullinger
National Statistician
Office for National Statistics
By email

12 January 2016

Dear John,

The Coherence and Accessibility of Official Statistics on Income and Earnings

I am writing to make you aware that we have today published our progress report on the Review into the *Coherence and Accessibility of Official Statistics on Income and Earnings*, based on updates submitted to us by statisticians in ONS, DWP and HMRC on their progress against the recommendations set out in our Review.

You will be aware that the Review itself was published in February 2015. This was followed by an event in July, bringing users and statistics producers together to consider the future landscape of income and earnings statistics. You spoke at this event, welcoming the report and encouraging producers to work together to tackle the challenges identified.

As set out in our report, while there have been some positive developments, especially around individual statistics, overall progress to address recommendations has been disappointingly slow, particularly given that statistics producers gave a commitment at the event to progress specific work streams. This is especially the case with regard to recommendations requiring cross-Departmental working and user engagement. We feel this is a really important area where statisticians are not currently serving the public well, and provides an opportunity to add real value by seeking to improve coherence and accessibility, and I would very much welcome your support in ensuring this happens.

We will be asking ONS, DWP and HMRC for a joint update on progress in May 2016, on which we will report, and will be looking for that to demonstrate more extensive progress across the range of recommendations.

Due to the continued importance of income and earnings statistics, I will also be considering whether any of the statistics included in the Review's scope are candidates for re-assessment under the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* as part of the 2016/17 Programme of Assessment.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Humpherson