

Mr E Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
UK Statistics Authority
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Dear Ed

I am writing to inform you of the impact of a change to the data for one of our established National Statistics and to ask the UK Statistics Authority to consider removing their National Statistics status with a view to re-assessment in 2016/17.

We have an existing series of National Statistics on Community Care Statistics: Social Services Activity, England 2014-15 report for which there has been a fundamental change to the data collected which has had an impact on the quality and comparability of the information. We used processes similar to the previous data collected to consider data quality prior to publication in October 2015, however we are now considering some potential data quality issues with data returned from individual Local Authorities and we are in the process of preparing an enhanced data quality note to outline them. However, there are likely to be other issues that we can't identify as easily at present in the data and in addition due to the change in collection there isn't the scope for a time series to be generated.

In the light of these issues, I would like to propose to the UK Statistics Authority that these have their National Statistics status removed. We will then collect the 2015/16 data under even more robust validation rules, including using the opportunity to compare with the previous year's figures. We plan to publish this in October 2016 and my current plan, subject to progress with the collection, would be to put these statistics forward for re-assessment following this October 2016 publication.

Yours sincerely



Chris Roebuck
Director of Benefits and Utilisation and Head of Profession for Statistics
Health and Social Care Information Centre