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HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STATISTICS

Thank you for our meeting of 8 March, which gave us an opportunity to discuss your assessment report on homelessness and rough sleeping statistics. I am very pleased that we agreed on an acceptable approach.

It is clearly extremely important that the homelessness statistics published by the Department on this topic are of the highest quality and meet the requirements for National Statistics designation.

I have asked my statisticians to continue to work with your assessment team to make sure that we achieve this. As part of this, they will work towards commencing the quarterly publication of homelessness prevention and relief statistics from June 2016, and we will also take steps to strengthen our user engagement structures.

On rough sleeping, we discussed the inherent difficulties of producing accurate estimates in this area. We will work to improve these statistics but it may be that we will continue to be unable to satisfy all the requirements to achieve National Statistics status.

THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP