
Director General for Regulation

Glyn Jones
Welsh Government - Chief Statistician
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

28 July 2016

Dear Glyn

National Statistics Status of Homelessness Statistics in Wales, 2015-16

Thank you for your letter of 21 July setting out the situation regarding your statistics on homelessness in Wales. I appreciate the efforts that you have made to overcome the difficulties faced during collection of the 2015-16 data, and the openness of expression of your view that there remain quality issues with these data.

Your letter raised the issue of whether it would be more appropriate for these statistics to be published without National Statistics status. I am grateful to you for reflecting yourself on the meaning of National Statistics status in the light of questions over data quality. Designation as National Statistics shows that the statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. I agree with you that because of the issues around the quality of these data, the 2015-16 statistics should not be published as National Statistics.

I welcome your commitment to provide a comprehensive explanation of the data quality issues alongside the statistics. I would be grateful if you would remove the National Statistics logo from the relevant statistical reports and the StatsWales data cubes, and include a clear explanation for users of the reasons for the temporary suspension, including a link to this letter.

I welcome your assurance that you expect the high standards of National Statistics to be met from the first quarter of 2016-17, and I would expect to be able to restore National Statistics status once that standard has been attained. I would welcome an update from you on your quality assurance work in due course.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson