

**Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation**

Donna McLarnon  
Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
2 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8PB

15 December 2016

Dear Donna

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSE CONDITION SURVEY**

Thank you for your request for an assessment of Northern Ireland House Condition Survey statistics. In response to this request the Office for Statistics Regulation has completed its assessment of these statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

During the course of this Assessment your team has shown enthusiasm and commitment to making improvements to the value, quality and trustworthiness of these statistics. In particular we welcome the production of a range of documents that you have shared with us which demonstrate the transparency and trustworthiness of the statistics. It is encouraging to see the steps that have already been taken to improve these statistics, and we look forward to the publication of these documents.

These statistics provide a detailed picture of housing conditions in Northern Ireland and are an essential public asset, providing needed and relevant information on house conditions in Northern Ireland. It is clear that your team actively engages with users of these statistics and has an excellent understanding of what key users need from the Ireland House Condition Survey. In the context of housing being a devolved matter, it is also encouraging to see the considerable efforts made by your team to promote comparability across the UK countries.

We judge that National Statistics (NS) designation for the reports *Northern Ireland House Condition Survey – preliminary findings* and *Northern Ireland House Condition Survey – main report* should be granted once you have demonstrated that you have enhanced the value, quality and trustworthiness of these statistics in the ways described in the Assessment Report. As previously agreed, you are due to report back to us by 31 March 2017 outlining how you have improved each of those three aspects to address the points raised in the report.

Reflecting the importance of NS designation and to provide users with confidence in the direction of travel, I encourage you to publish a plan of proposed actions to increase public value, quality and trustworthiness as a result of this Assessment.

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time. I am copying this letter to John Pullinger, the National Statistician, and to Siobhan Carey, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson