

**Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation**

Ken Roy  
Head of Profession for Statistics (Defra group)  
Natural England  
[by email]

06 February 2017

Dear Ken,

The Office for Statistics Regulation was recently contacted about Defra statistics on the number of deaths associated with air pollution in the UK.

The latest estimates were published in the September 2015 report 'Valuing impacts on air quality: Updates in valuing changes in emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) and concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)'.

Given the complexities of estimating mortality due to NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, it is important that the report presents full details of the calculation methodology, uncertainty around the estimates, and strengths and limitations of the figures. Currently, it is unclear how you arrived at the upper and lower ranges for the combined estimate of mortality (44,750-52,500). Adding this information would aid understanding and interpretation of the figures.

Whilst we recognise that this report is not a formal statistical output, given the importance of the figures, we consider that it would be helpful to enhance compliance with Principle 4 of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (Sound Methods and Assured Quality).

Kind regards,



Ed Humpherson