

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation

Clare Marchant
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Dear Clare

Congratulations on your appointment as Chief Executive of UCAS.

As Director-General of the Office for Statistics Regulation, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and introduce our mission and role of OSR as part of the UK Statistics Authority. Our purpose is to provide independent regulation of all official statistics produced in the UK. Statistics are an essential public asset and we aim to enhance public confidence in the trustworthiness, quality, and value of statistics produced by the government.

We also encourage non-official statistical producing bodies to consider the public value of making their data more accessible for research, policy and decision-making. As UCAS is the main operator for the UK higher education applications process, the organisation controls important administrative data about the transition from school to university.

You will lead UCAS at an exciting time. In the past UCAS has broadened access to its data, both through the dissemination of high-level statistical summaries on the website, and has recently enhanced value further by making nine years worth of data available through the Administrative Data Research Network. These are welcome developments. We also see significant potential to secure greater value from increased access to UCAS data by the research community. It can inform questions of significant public interest, such as the shift into tertiary education for disadvantaged students.

It would be a pleasure to meet once you have started at UCAS to discuss the important role UCAS plays and to explain more about our work at the Office for Statistics Regulation. We have sent this letter to your new UCAS address as well.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Humpherson