
Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation

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Dear Glyn

National Statistics status – National Survey for Wales outputs

Thank you for considering the meaning of the National Statistics designation in the light of changes made to the National Survey for Wales (NSW), and for inviting us to review the changes and confirm the designation.

I welcome you and your team's engagement with stakeholders as you have undertaken the changes to the survey. It is a clear demonstration of your desire to understand users' needs and the decisions that the statistics help to inform. I am pleased to see the way that you have taken account of their views on the presentation of statistics and associated commentary by developing a set of outputs that present the main findings from the survey in an accessible and engaging way. The mix of text, charts and infographics meets the requirements of the majority of users who need this kind of output to quickly assimilate key messages. Your plans for additional linked documents providing more detail supplement the main report effectively.

Bringing together different surveys in a way that enables users to compare data over time presents challenges. We commend you for commissioning a detailed study into potential discontinuities from experts at the University of Southampton, as well as having their approach reviewed in turn by methodology experts at the Office for National Statistics, and your plans to publish the executive summary of this report alongside the statistics.

More generally, I welcome your plans to be open with users about the strengths and limitations of the statistics in a separate quality report, though bringing some of these into the main report would add more value to users' interpretation.

On the basis of the evidence presented, I am pleased to confirm the continued designation of statistics based on the National Survey for Wales published by the Welsh Government as National Statistics.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson
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