

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation

Siobhan Carey
Chief Executive and Registrar General
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
Colby House
Stranmillis Court
Belfast
BT9 5RR

8 May 2017

Dear Siobhan

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON NORTHERN IRELAND TOURISM

We have received correspondence from the Tourism Statistics Branch outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 329: *Statistics on Northern Ireland Tourism*.

On behalf of the Board of the Statistics Authority, the Office for Statistics Regulation has reviewed these actions and I am pleased to confirm the designation as new National Statistics of:

Northern Ireland Annual Tourism Statistics
Northern Ireland Quarterly Tourism Statistics
External Overnight Trips to Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Domestic Tourism
Northern Ireland Hotel Occupancy
Northern Ireland Local Government District Tourism Statistics

The statisticians who have been involved throughout the Assessment have been dedicated to implementing the requirements from our report and committed to enhancing the value of these statistics. The improvements made to the statistical reports and supporting documents have been considerable and will be clearly visible to users. I commend the efforts made by all involved, including the work undertaken by the previous lead statistician to drive forward improvements. I am confident in the commitment of the current lead statistician and his team to continue to enhance and improve tourism statistics in Northern Ireland, and I look forward to seeing a programme of ongoing development of the statistics and supporting quality information as systems and processes change in the future.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and value and is something to be celebrated. For future releases, we invite you to include a statement alongside the statistics which reflects the National Statistics status. You may wish to base your statement on the boilerplate text attached to this letter.

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 Kevin Sweeney and Jim McColgan in the Tourism Statistics Branch.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

Text that may only be used in publications that carry the National Statistics logo following assessment and designation:

NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Office for Statistics

Regulation. The Office for Statistics Regulation considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is NISRA's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Office for Statistics Regulation. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

