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**Director General for Regulation**

James Palmer  
Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough  
(By email)

10 July 2017

Dear Mr Palmer,

I am writing to follow up the 19 May letter<sup>1</sup> to you from Hetan Shah, Executive Director of the Royal Statistical Society.

In his letter Hetan mentioned the desirability of ensuring that local data standards accord with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice. As the Statistics Authority's Director General for Regulation, I am keen to support organisations in using the Code to benchmark their production and use of data and statistics against the high standards required to enhance public confidence in those data and statistics.

The approach the Authority is promoting is one of voluntary compliance with the Code. Last week the Authority launched<sup>2</sup> a formal consultation on a refreshed Code of Practice for Statistics, structured around three pillars – *Trustworthiness*, *Quality* and *Value* – which provide a framework for ensuring confidence in statistics and numerical information. The Consultation document explains the scope of the Code and seeks views on a range of issues, including “to what extent do you think that organisations outside the official statistics system would be able to apply the three pillars of *Trustworthiness*, *Quality* and *Value* voluntarily? What do you think might prevent this?”

I would be very happy to discuss with you or your officials ways of building into your work the high statistical standards that would follow from voluntarily complying with the Code, and any barriers you might see to the application of the framework of *Trustworthiness*, *Quality* and *Value* to your use of numerical information.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson  
Director General for Regulation

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rss.org.uk/Images/PDF/influencing-change/2017/Letter-HS-Andy-Street-19-May-2017.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/osr/code-of-practice/consultation/>