



Data and Analytics  
Level 2  
Caxton House.  
Tothill Street, London.  
[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Ed Humpherson

Office for Statistics Regulation

12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Ed,

### **ASSESSMENT OF ACCESS TO WORK OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

We have been in discussions with your assessment team regarding the OSR report for the Assessment of Access to Work Official Statistics and would like to thank your team for the [report](#) and advice, which we have found very helpful. In line with the report's recommendations we reviewed how we calculated and presented the Access to Work Official Statistics in order to better explain them to users. In delving deeper into the underlying methodology and frontline processes generating the data we uncovered some issues which resulted in us deciding to withdraw the previous statistics and publish a [new series of experimental Access to Work statistics](#).

The OSR review has informed, and will continue to inform, the development of the new series. For example, in line with the report's recommendations, the presentation of the statistics has been improved to aide interpretation and the statistical release document now includes breakdowns by various customer characteristics, charts and an overview of the Access to Work customer journey to help place the statistics in context. A detailed [Background information and methodology note](#) provides additional information on the purpose, quality and limitations of the statistics and, as

recommended, now includes a user feedback section and additional information on statistical revisions.

We will continue to develop the series with reference to user feedback and will explore the feasibility of expanding the scope of the statistics to include further breakdowns (including geographical breakdowns) and to cover other parts of the Access to Work customer journey such as Access to Work payments. In line with the report's recommendations, we are promoting statistical purposes actively in the redesign of the administrative system used to produce these statistics in order to enhance their statistical potential.

Users are invited to comment on the development and relevance of Access to Work statistics and can send feedback to: [access.toworkstatistics@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:access.toworkstatistics@dwp.gsi.gov.uk). Further information on the new series of experimental Access to Work statistics and the withdrawal of the previously published series is provided in a separate [Statistical Notice](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Balchin', with a horizontal line underneath.

Stephen Balchin

Head of Statistical Services Division and Statistics Head of Profession for DWP