
Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation

Sandra Tudor
Head of Profession for Statistics
Department for Communities and Local Government
[by email]

5 December 2017

Dear Sandra

ASSESSMENT REPORT 317: TRAVELLER CARAVAN COUNT IN ENGLAND

I am grateful for the continued engagement of your staff and appreciate what you have done to improve these statistics since the publication of our assessment report in November 2015. These include improving the presentation of the online tables and the inclusion of a map illustrating the concentration of traveller sites across England. I am also pleased about the plans that your staff have shared to further develop the presentation of these statistics and the published information about their strengths and limitations.

During the course of the assessment your staff have explained that there are ongoing policy developments in this area. These include discussions about unauthorised encampments that are currently being taken forward with gypsy and traveller organisations. I recognise that these discussions will limit your statisticians' opportunities to engage directly with these users as part of addressing the assessment requirements, and that these discussions may also include in their scope the need to improve the existing statistical evidence base to overcome its known limitations.

In the light of the possible changes to the traveller caravan statistics following these developments and the time elapsed since the assessment, I consider that we should formally close down our follow up to this assessment and await these further developments. I would appreciate an update from you when you have greater clarity about what the forthcoming changes will mean for the future development of these statistics so that we can consider how we can resume our assessment activity in this area.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation