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Ed Humpherson  
Director General for Regulation  
Office for Statistics Regulation  
[by email]

**Date: 16 May 2018**

Dear Ed

Thank you for your letter of 30th April in response to a concern raised around a Defra press release from the 17th April which referenced an estimate of the number of plastic straws that are thrown away each year in the UK.

I have discussed this instance with the Defra Communications team and we accept your points related to the importance of referencing sources in press releases and correctly signalling the robustness of the statistics that are being quoted.

We will be sharing this example with our news teams and building this into the regular review sessions that we hold to ensure that communications colleagues are aware of relevant best practice in the use of statistics in their work.

Yours sincerely

Ken Roy

Defra Group Head of Profession (Statistics)