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**Director General for Regulation**

Iain Bell  
Deputy National Statistician – Population and Public Policy  
Office for National Statistics

25 June 2018

Dear Iain

**Cross Government Housing and Planning Statistics Work Programme**

Following my letter to you in February<sup>1</sup>, I am writing to congratulate you on the recent publication of the Cross Government Housing and Planning Statistics Work Programme<sup>2</sup> and supporting blog<sup>3</sup> setting out how this programme will meet the growing demands on housing and planning statistics in the UK.

I am pleased that you have taken a collaborative approach to identify and prioritise key improvements to these statistics, building on the recent efforts of statisticians across the four countries to work more collaboratively, with strengthened governance to support the programme's delivery. It is positive that you have prioritised work to address known gaps in insight on the private rented sector; and that the work programme captures wide ranging improvements to the coherence, quality, harmonisation and accessibility of the statistics.

We look forward to seeing the planned public updates on the work programme over the coming months as it develops.

I would be grateful if you could pass on this positive feedback and recognition to your statisticians who have contributed to this work. As I expressed in my previous letter, we will seek a formal update from you in the Autumn about progress being made to deliver on the programme's plans. I would also like to reiterate that my team would be happy to support your future engagement activities if this would be helpful.

I am copying this letter to Debra Prestwood and Chris Jenkins, Office for National Statistics; and to Colin Yeend at the Valuation Office Agency.

Your sincerely



Ed Humpherson

Director General for Regulation

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/statistics-on-housing-and-planning-in-the-uk-2/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/HousingWorkProgrammeMay2018.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/blog/ripe-for-development-building-better-housing-statistics-for-the-uk/>