
Director General for Regulation

Paul Stroner
Deputy Director of Information and Analytics
NHS Improvement

19 June 2018

Dear Paul

ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON PATIENT SAFETY INCIDENTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Thank you for your letter of 12 June 2018 regarding your statistics on Patient Safety Incidents which outlines the improvements made following our assessment of these statistics.

The assessment team have informed me about the positive approach of the NHS Improvement statisticians involved and I have been impressed by the way that you and your team, as new producers of Official Statistics, are starting to apply the Code of Practice. NHS Improvement has demonstrated trustworthiness in how you have:

- Produced organisational documentation setting out the organisation's approach to revisions and statistical roles and responsibilities
- Published comprehensive metadata and improved the commentary about the data collection
- Comprehensively reviewed and reduced the pre-release access list
- Engaged with users to understand their future needs for the statistics

The assessment team also informs me that you have been pursuing listing the statistics on the GOV.UK release calendar. I welcome this ambition which, once achieved, will increase the trustworthiness and accessibility of these statistics further still.

In your letter, you noted that the move to the new data collection system will lead to discontinuities in the collection and dissemination of the data. We welcome this project, since the current coverage and quality assurance would not have permitted the Statistics Authority to designate the outputs as National Statistics. The changes to the data collection will improve your ability to report on data quality with more confidence and provide more insight to users, although these benefits will not be forthcoming until the new data is well understood.

In light of these changes, I agree with your proposal to cease active follow up of this assessment, but look forward to updates about developments to the statistics, for us to recommence regulatory work in due course. The statistics will continue to be listed as Official Statistics and, in the meantime, I encourage the you to continue to expand your compliance with the Code of Practice. For example, you should publish evidence of engagement with users of the statistics throughout the development of the new data collection system and ensure that their needs are considered in the preparation of future statistical outputs.

I am copying this letter to Mark Svenson, Head of Operational Information for Commissioning at NHS England and Julia Abernethy, Deputy Lead Official for Statistics, NHS Improvement.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Humpherson', written in a cursive style.

Ed Humpherson

Director General for Regulation