

Mary Gregory
Deputy Director for Regulation
Office for Statistics Regulation
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11 October 2018

Dear Mary

STATISTICS FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND SAFE COMMUNITY SURVEY – SET-UP PHASE

Thank you for your letter of 28 August 2018 regarding the compliance check for the set-up phase of the NI Safe Community Survey.

Statisticians within the Department of Justice undertook a Review of the previous NI Crime Survey in 2017/18 and found the recent engagement with the OSR team extremely valuable in reviewing progress to date. The recent developments in the survey were clearly demonstrated in the strengths as outlined in your letter. We would like to thank your team for the time taken to understand the complexities of the Survey as well as the ongoing advice and support.

In light of the improvements identified in the compliance check, DoJ statisticians have drafted an action plan (see attached). I expect this plan to make a significant contribution to ensuring that the NI Safe Community Statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. The Department of Justice, along with all other criminal justice organisations in Northern Ireland, is in the process of reviewing statistical management and structures. As part of this review NISRA will highlight the importance of appropriate resourcing of key statistical products.

Once again, thank you for this independent assessment of the survey's development and methodology. I look forward to phase 2 of the compliance check at which stage progress on the action plan can be assessed.

Yours sincerely



SIOBHAN CAREY