

PUBLIC HEALTH & INTELLIGENCE

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Ed Humpherson  
Director General  
Office for Statistics Regulation

6 February 2020

Dear Ed

### CARE HOME CENSUS PUBLICATION

The Care Home Census is published annually by ISD and was recently assessed during a compliance check by the Office for Statistics Regulation. The compliance check identified a number of areas for the ISD team to address to improve the content and user value of the publication. The ISD team have been working hard on this and have walked through our plans with your team to keep them abreast of our planned changes.

However, there remains an outstanding issue with the Data Sharing Agreements relating to the sharing of the Care Home Census data for 2017/18 and 2018/19 with ISD, which is affecting the timely publication of these data. The Census is coordinated by the Care Inspectorate in Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government and the current data sharing arrangements require the data to be submitted from the Care Inspectorate to the Scottish Government and then onwards to ISD. The appropriate data sharing agreements between Scottish Government and ISD for the use of these data has taken some time to agree. We now have this in place but it will still take a number of months for the data to be transferred to ISD and the analysis to be undertaken, leading to further delays in the publication of these statistics.

For that reason, I am writing to you to request a temporary suspension of the National Statistics status for this publication because we are not serving the public good through the provision of timely release of these statistics. Our intention is to publish the latest two years in one publication as soon as we can, likely to be around July 2020. Thereafter, I would expect the data submission to be more straight-forward and we will resume publication on a more timely basis. At this point, I will write to you again to consider reinstating the National Statistics status. We will use the time between now and July to further engage with users ahead of our next publication of the statistics.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I'm copying this letter to Roger Halliday, Chief Statistician at Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Heald', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Scott

Scott Heald,  
Head of Profession for Statistics, NHS National Services Scotland.



Chair  
Chief Executive

Keith Redpath  
Colin Sinclair

*NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service.*