
Mary Gregory, Deputy Director for Regulation

Paul McKillen
Senior Principal Statistician
Department for Communities Northern Ireland
(by email)

15 October 2021

Dear Paul

Confirmation of National Statistics Designation for Personal Independence Payment Statistics for Northern Ireland produced by the Department for Communities

We have reviewed the actions that your team has taken to address the requirements in [Assessment Report number 355: Personal Independence Payment Statistics for Northern Ireland](#). On behalf of the Board of the UK Statistics Authority, I am pleased to confirm the designation of National Statistics for these statistics.

These statistics are valuable to a range of users across the advice and charity sectors, as well as within the Department for Communities, in improving understanding of how Personal Independence Payments (PIP) are performing and their role in social security reform.

The team responsible for producing the statistics has responded very positively to the Requirements of our report. We are impressed with the actions the team has already taken to engage directly with users and its counterparts in the Department for Work and Pensions. These regular meetings will support the development of PIP statistics and should enable greater coherence between PIP statistics for Northern Ireland and Great Britain. It is also good to see the additional information on data quality and methodology to support users' understanding and use of the statistics.

We have included more detail about our judgement in an annex to this letter. I, or my team, would be happy to talk to you or your colleagues through any aspects of this letter or Code compliance more generally.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and value and is something to be celebrated.

I am copying this letter to Siobhan Carey, Chief Executive and Registrar General, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, and Sharon Brady and Peter Wilgar, the responsible statisticians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Gregory". The letters are cursive and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Gregory".

Mary Gregory
Deputy Director for Regulation