
Ed Humpherson, Director General for Office for Statistics Regulation

Mike Keoghan
Deputy National Statistician and Director General for the Economic, Social and
Environmental Statistics Group, Office for National Statistics
(by email)

09 October 2024

Dear Mike

**Suspension of the accredited official statistics status for the estimates ONS
produces from the Annual Population Survey**

Thank you for your letter setting out the outcomes of your evaluation of the quality of the
statistics produced using the Annual Population Survey (APS).

We agree with your findings, and therefore agree to your request to suspend accredited
official statistics status from ONS outputs produced using the APS. As you explain in your
letter, this approach helps to convey the uncertainty and clearly signal the limitations of the
data to users to support their appropriate use.

We welcome your plans to publish a technical note setting out how APS data can currently
be used and what the limitations are and to work with other Departments which produce
outputs using the APS data to help them understand the impact on their outputs. ONS will
need to provide quality information, including areas of bias, coherence with other data
sources and volatility, as appropriate to help other Departments determine the impact on
their outputs.

The insights ONS gains from its quality review of this valuable source of data and statistics,
will enable it to communicate the strengths and weaknesses to users across outputs and
data release tools such as NOMIS so the data can continue to be used in an appropriate
way.

Our Labour Market and Welfare domain team will continue to engage with your team on
this matter.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson
Director General for OSR