

Commenting on today's publication of the of the NI Statistical Surveys - *Assessment of Cost Burden to Business 2016-17*, Philip McDonagh, chair of the Northern Ireland Statistics Advisory Committee said the Committee welcomed the fact that the cost to business of collecting statistical data had remained broadly unchanged.

“We are clearly satisfied that the cost to business of collecting the data that are needed to compile Northern Ireland’s statistical reporting has not increased in real terms.

“We also welcome the overall fall in compliance costs to business, which have fallen by around 15% since 2013/14 and we hope that this trend will continue.

“Looking to the future, we are encouraging NISRA to take advantage of the growing ability to use administrative data collected by other agencies which should mean a reduction in the need for statutory surveys.

“Nevertheless it is important that the information on business activity on which business relies and which helps inform policy issues is accurate and is gathered by a professional body like NISRA.

“As a Committee, we are also keen to increase the awareness of business on the availability and importance of these data sources and share information more widely across the business community.”

Notes to editors

1. The Northern Ireland Statistics Advisory Committee has a statutory role under the Statistics of Trade & Employment Order (NI) 1988, to advise NI Departments on all matters relating to the collection and disclosure of statistical information from businesses. It is described in more detail at this link <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/statistics-advisory-committee>
2. The publication this release relates to is available at this link <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/ni-statistical-surveys-assessment-cost-burden-business-201617>
3. For enquiries about this press release, please contact Philip McDonagh on 07768 671100 or email philipmcdonagh@ntlworld.com