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**Director General, Monitoring and Assessment**

Norman Caven  
Department of Finance and Personnel  
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency  
McAuley House  
2-14 Castle Street  
BELFAST BT1 1SA

2 April 2012

Dear Norman

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON DEMOGRAPHY AND VITAL EVENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Thank you for Naomi O'Neill's email of 21 December 2011 outlining the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 124 on Statistics on Demography and Vital Events in Northern Ireland.

The Board of the Statistics Authority has reviewed these on the advice of the Assessment team and I am pleased to confirm the designation of the outputs as National Statistics. Regarding the requirement to provide commentary and explanatory information to support the interpretation of the statistics, we have noted the steps you have taken and the further steps that you plan to take, and the designation is confirmed on that basis.

It is a requirement of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 that the Code of Practice must continue to be complied with in relation to the statistics. We would invite you to incorporate the attached text in publications containing the statistics. This text may only be used where National Statistics designation has been awarded following an Assessment Report. It is intended to convey a strong and independent endorsement for the statistical publication.

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time. I am copying this letter to Jill Matheson, the National Statistician, and to Dr David Marshall.

Yours sincerely



Richard Alldritt

**Text that may only be used in publications that carry the National Statistics logo following assessment and designation:**

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.