

# Statement

23 September 2009

## Criteria for not awarding the National Statistics designation

Section 12 of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 states that:

“If ... the Board determines that the Code has been complied with, it must designate the statistics as “National Statistics”; but otherwise it must decline so to designate them”

And in relation to re-assessments, section 14 states that:

“If ... the Board determines that the Code continues to be complied with in relation to any statistics already designated as National Statistics ... it must confirm their designation as National Statistics; but otherwise it must cancel their designation”.

While the Statistics Authority will consider each case on its merits, it will have particular regard to issues that it considers likely to undermine public trust in statistics, and will give particular weight to two grounds for not awarding the National Statistics designation:

1. The Board considers that the producer body has failed to implement a prior recommendation by the Authority itself; or that it has failed to implement a prior recommendation by another body which the Authority has told the producer body it endorses.
2. The producer body cannot reassure the Authority that it will implement the Requirements in a new Assessment report within a reasonable timescale, typically of up to six months but taking account of the publication cycle.

In any case, where the National Statistics designation is not awarded or is cancelled, the Assessment report will set out steps that when completed will result in the designation being awarded without a further Assessment being conducted.