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Janet Egdell, Registrar General
National Records of Scotland

Sent via e-mail.

1 June 2023

Re: Letter from Registrar General to Chief Statistician – 25 May 2023

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter which details the work being done to ensure that the public and users of the Census statistics can trust the quality from the first outputs from Scotland's Census, due to be published in early autumn.

Scotland's Census 2022, as with all censuses previously, has faced new challenges. These challenges were not all unique to Scotland. You have continually drawn on expertise to address challenges, and from my role on the International Steering Group, I have seen the professionalism and dedication from your teams to address those challenges.

I have seen how these fundamental principles of professionalism and dedication, along with impartiality and integrity, are addressing the problems which were well publicised during 'Collect'. This important work does not receive anywhere near the same publicity or recognition as the criticisms and critiques that continue to be levelled at the Census.

As Chief Statistician, I am therefore pleased to help you to continue to build public and user confidence in the first output. I will convene a group of analysts and other experts to review your coherence assessment. I will gather the views of the group and provide an assessment. I would ask that your teams help me to provide support to that group so that we can adequately assess the evidence you bring forward.

I wish you and the teams my best wishes as you move into the important and critical stage of publishing.

Yours sincerely

Alastair McAlpine
Chief Statistician

