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Dear Len

## **Review of the Labour Force Survey**

### **Issue**

1. Submission to the National Statistician of the Final Report of the Labour Force Survey Quality Review .

### **Recommendation**

2. That you read the report and agree to its publication as soon as possible.

### **Purpose of LFS Review**

3. The LFS Review started in the second half of 2001 and has recently finished. It has been fundamental in nature. Its aim is to assess what the LFS is really being used for - both by ONS and others - and to recommend how the survey could be improved in order to meet these needs better. The review has involved a major user consultation exercise.
4. The LFS Review has been conducted in parallel with Reviews of the Framework for Labour Market Statistics and of the Distribution of Earnings . Together, these three strategic and fundamental reviews cover much of the territory of ONS's labour market statistics outputs. They provide a substantial and exciting agenda for reform of the UK's LMS systems - alongside the LM re-engineering infrastructure project into which the reviews will feed the necessary radical ideas for fundamental change.

### **Review process**

5. The Review was conducted by a cross-divisional ONS team led by Barry Werner and Ian Knight . A large number of face to face interviews were conducted with a variety of stakeholders, across government and the wider community. In addition, a number of written submissions were made to the Review Team.



The team therefore had a considerable body of evidence to sift through, and the Review's Steering Group, which Susan Linacre chaired, played an important role in helping to air differing views and test the quality of the Review Team's analysis.

6. The Review Steering Group (including representatives of the Bank of England, DWP and an outside expert) are broadly in agreement with the Review team's work . In addition, informal consultation with the Treasury has established their support also. All the points raised by Steering Group members on the draft version of the report have been taken into account in the Final Report. Susan Linacre herself made considerable inputs to the review process and her comments on the Final Report, made during her final week with ONS, have all been incorporated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Pullinger', with a stylized, cursive script.

**John Pullinger**