

Action Plan to address requirements from UK Statistics Authority assessment of NIHCS statistics

April 2017

| Requirements | Action planned (Feb 2017) | Action undertaken (updated April 2017) |
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| <p>1. To enhance the public value of these statistics by increasing users understanding of the quality, NIHE should ensure that published details of the strengths and limitations of the statistics are comprehensive, and are easy to find and understand in all published outputs.</p> | <p>a) More information will be included in the sample design section of the appendices in the NIHCS main report, specifically to explain how the size of the sample may impact on use and interpretation of the statistics.</p> <p>b) More information will be provided about the strengths and limitations of NIHCS statistics in the NIHCS main report. The information will be added as an appendix that is easy for users to locate. In addition there will be information about the steps NIHE takes to accommodate these limitations eg. dealing with inaccurate responses to sensitive topics such as income.</p> <p>c) Any of the above information, which is relevant to the data produced in the NIHCS preliminary report, will also be included in the preliminary report.</p> | <p>a) The published NIHCS 2016 preliminary report included information about sample design, including a section on sample size implications.</p> <p>b) The published NIHCS 2016 preliminary report included information about the strengths and limitations of the statistics.</p> <p>c) The published NIHCS 2016 preliminary report included information about sample design, and the strengths and weaknesses of the statistics.</p> |
| <p>2. To enhance accessibility and maximise potential use of the NIHCS data, NIHE should provide data tables in an open format.</p> | <p>a) NIHCS data tables will be published on the NIHE website as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.</p> | <p>a) NIHCS 2016 preliminary report data tables were published in excel format on the NIHE website http://nihe.gov.uk/nihcs_2016_preliminary_report_tables.xlsx</p> |

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| <p>3. In order to enhance users understanding of the quality of the statistics, NIHE should review and improve the reporting of quality and methodology information in all reports to ensure appropriate information is available to users. This should include publishing:</p> <p>a) more detailed information on the methodology used to produce statistics, written in a clear and understandable way for non-technical users</p> <p>b) information on the ESS's five aspects of quality</p> <p>c) comprehensive information on NIHCS statistics quality assurance procedures for each stage of the data journey</p> <p>d) up-to date information on the survey methodology</p> | <p>a) More information will be included in the methodology section of the NIHCS main report, specifically relating to the weighting and grossing process. The information about methodology will also be added to the NIHCS preliminary report.</p> <p>b) NIHE will develop and publish a background quality report on the NIHCS which will address the ESS's five aspects of quality.</p> <p>c) NIHE will develop and publish a document outlining the quality assurance procedures that take place at all stages of the NIHCS process.</p> <p>d) NIHE will ensure that all methodology information on its website is up to date.</p> | <p>a) The published NIHCS 2016 preliminary report provided detailed information about methodology, including the weighting and grossing process.</p> <p>b) NIHE has published a background quality report which addresses the ESS's five aspects of quality: http://nihe.gov.uk/nihcs_background_quality_report-2.pdf</p> <p>c) NIHE has developed a document which outlines the quality assurance processes for the NIHCS. This has been published on the NIHE website: http://nihe.gov.uk/nihcs_quality_assurance.pdf</p> <p>d) NIHE has removed out of date methodology information from its website. Methodology information relating to the 2016 NIHCS was included in the preliminary report.</p> |
| <p>4. To demonstrate the trustworthiness of these statistics NIHE should:</p> <p>a) ensure pre-release access to each of the NIHCS statistical reports is restricted to those people essential for production and publication, or for quality assurance</p> | <p>a) NIHE will restrict the pre-release of the NIHCS statistical reports as specified in the requirement.</p> <p>b) NIHE will publish a pre-release access list for each NIHCS report.</p> <p>c) NIHE will publish a Pre-Release Compliance statement.</p> | <p>a) This requirement will be carried out on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>b) The pre-release access list for the NIHCS 2016 preliminary report has been published on the NIHE website http://nihe.gov.uk/nihcsp_pre_release_access_list.pdf The pre-release access list for the main report will be published at a later date.</p> <p>c) The Pre-Release Compliance Statement has been</p> |

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| <p>and operational purposes</p> <p>b) publish lists of those people given restricted pre-release access to each of the NIHCS statistical reports</p> <p>c) publish the Pre-Release Compliance Statement, which outlines arrangements in place for pre-release access</p> | | <p>published on the NIHE website: http://nihe.gov.uk/research_statement_of_compliance.pdf</p> |
| <p>5. To demonstrate its trustworthiness, NIHE should:</p> <p>a) set out documentation on how those who produce the statistics are protected from any pressures that might influence the methods, content or timing of the outputs on NIHCS statistics.</p> <p>b) publish documentation on how it ensures the integrity of official statistics, for example its revisions policy and confidentiality statement.</p> | <p>a) NIHE will produce a document showing how those who produce the statistics are protected from any pressures as specified in the requirement.</p> <p>b) NIHE will publish its revisions policy and confidentiality statements.</p> | <p>a) The document regarding integrity and the NIHCS has been published on the NIHE website: http://nihe.gov.uk/integrity_of_official_statistics.pdf</p> <p>b) The revisions policy and confidentiality statement have been published on the NIHE website: http://nihe.gov.uk/statistics_revisions_policy.pdf http://nihe.gov.uk/confidentiality_and_access_statement.pdf</p> |
| <p>6. To ensure that statistical reports are released into the public domain in an orderly manner that promotes trustworthiness and public confidence, and gives equal access to all users, NIHE should:</p> <p>a) publish a timetable of releases for</p> | <p>a) NIHE will publish a timetable of NIHCS releases on its website and on the Statistics Release Calendar.</p> <p>b) NIHE will ensure that NIHCS statistics are released at 9.30am on the day of release.</p> | <p>a) The release date of the NIHCS preliminary report was announced on the NIHE website and on the Statistics Release calendar on GOV.uk</p> <p>b) The NIHCS 2016 preliminary report was published at 9.30am on the day of release (30th March 2017).</p> <p>c) The published NIHCS 2016 preliminary report included</p> |

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| <p>these statistics 12 months in advance and ensure that these statistics can be accessed from the Statistics Release Calendar.</p> <p>b) ensure that NIHCS statistics are issued at 9.30am on the day of release.</p> <p>c) publish the name and contact details of the responsible statistician in the statistical reports.</p> | <p>c) NIHE will publish the name and contact details of the responsible statistician in the statistical reports.</p> | <p>the name and contact details of the responsible statistician.</p> |