

**Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation**

Mark Brooks  
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9 February 2017

Dear Mark

**ROUGH SLEEPING STATISTICS PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR  
COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Thank you for your letter of 2 February concerning the Rough Sleeping Statistics Autumn 2016 report produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Your concerns relate to the omission of any reference to male rough sleepers, or their number or percentage of all rough sleepers from the data presentation, the statistical report text or the accompanying dataset. This is despite the fact that this information is published for females, and that totals for males can be determined by deducting the number of females from the overall rough sleeper count total.

This is the first time that DCLG has presented demographic information in the annual statistics and this information has been collected by those conducting the rough sleeping count using a new methodology. It appears that the collection of demographic characteristics focused on identifying minority rough sleeper groups: females, those aged under 25 years, and EU/non-EU nationals. This focus is at the expense of recording characteristics for majority rough sleeper groups: males, those aged 25 years and over and UK nationals, which are included only in the overall rough sleeper totals.

I agree with you that the public value of DCLG's Rough Sleeping Statistics is limited by this presentational approach. I recognise your concerns that the exclusion of males from these statistics is likely to limit the factual representation of male rough sleepers in the media and in societal awareness in general and that this could inadvertently lead to a lack of service provision and funding for this group. The same logic also applies to those aged 25 years and over and UK nationals.

You may be aware that these annual statistics were covered in our assessment of DCLG's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Statistics in 2015<sup>1</sup>, the requirements of which DCLG is still working to meet. I will ask my regulatory team to follow up this issue with DCLG as part of the assessment follow-up process, in order to ensure that DCLG is able to maximise the public value of these statistics.

I am copying this letter to Sandra Tudor, Head of Profession for Statistics at DCLG.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/statistics-on-homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-in-england-department-for-communities-and-local-government/>