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**Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation**

Mark Brooks  
The Men and Boys Coalition  
The ManKind Initiative  
Belvedere Road  
Flook House  
Taunton  
TA1 1BT

(by email)

13 March 2018

Dear Mr Brooks,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March concerning the Rough Sleeping Statistics Autumn 2017 report<sup>1</sup> produced by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Your letter relates to the omission of the numbers and percentages for male rough sleepers in the report's statistical narrative. This is despite the fact that numbers and percentages for female rough sleepers are included as bullets in two areas of the text, and I note that you also raised a similar concern with us in relation to last year's bulletin.

My regulatory team has now reviewed MHCLG's latest Rough Sleeping Statistics. It is clear that since last year's report, MHCLG has taken steps to ensure that accurate totals are produced for both the majority and minority groups for each demographic category. The report narrative is also explicit about the previous issues and the nature of improvements made.

You are right that the total number and percentage of male rough sleepers is not presented in the report text, however, the narrative does include a discussion about the proportion of males in relation to the total rough sleeper populations for London and the Rest of England. This commentary is presented to explain Chart 2 of the report, which clearly shows the relative proportions of male and female rough sleepers visually, and indicates their relative proportions. The report's introduction also includes signposting to the detailed demographic information available in the supporting tables, with a direct link provided<sup>2</sup>. Table 2a from the link then presents the numbers and percentages of male and female rough sleepers for London, England and the individual English regions.

Taking this all into account, our overall view is that male rough sleepers are now suitably represented by MHCLG's Rough Sleeping Statistics in terms of the overall measurement approach, the coverage of the bulletin and the detailed statistical tables. We do however believe that MHCLG could be clearer about its rationale for focusing the report's summary points on rough sleepers from minority groups, and I will ask my regulatory team to approach

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/682001/Rough\\_Sleeping\\_Autumn\\_2017\\_Statistical\\_Release\\_-\\_revised.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/682001/Rough_Sleeping_Autumn_2017_Statistical_Release_-_revised.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/682004/Tables\\_1\\_and\\_2a\\_2b\\_2c\\_-\\_revised.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/682004/Tables_1_and_2a_2b_2c_-_revised.xlsx)

MHCLG statisticians to ensure that they are transparent about the decision making behind their future, presentational choices.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Humpherson', written in a cursive style.

Ed Humpherson  
Director General for Regulation