

Response to the Allsopp Review First Report from Brian Eaton

Thank-you for inviting comments on your very detailed review. My background is one of working in a number of UK regions on regional including business issues over nearly 40 years. I welcome your approach in seeking to get closer to the regions. This is essential if statistical information is to become more robust and reflect the real and changing issues and developments on the ground. A concern over a number of regional statistical series has been the use of pro-rata approximation when full data has been difficult to collect. Any attempt to correct this would be welcome. It is essential, however, that any proposal to set-up teams of official regional statisticians should also acknowledge the contribution that local people working on the ground could make in this process. Regular contact with people already working in the regions who are aware of the local challenges is a pre-requisite to progress.

Kind Regards

Brian Eaton

10 March 2004.