



SB/MO/eh.24/02-01/kb

24 February 2004

The Allsopp Review Team
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Mr Allsopp,

The Regional Development Agencies have a shared interest in a better statistical framework for the English regions, both in terms of the infrastructure and in the quality, range, robustness and timeliness of data on which performance is assessed, targets set and programmes developed.

I write to thank you for an outstanding First Report which adds greatly to an understanding of regional statistics, clearly identifies the information needs of organisations with responsibilities to deliver the regional policy agenda, and sets out a demanding development programme to meet those needs. The Northwest Development Agency warmly welcomes the Report and endorses the response to the Allsopp Review Team by the Association of Regional Observatories.

We welcome in particular the recommendation to establish a GSS presence in the English regions – in the Northwest co-location with the Regional Intelligence Unit may be an attractive option. We understand that full implementation may be delayed to 2006/7 when resources become available to ONS from CSR 2004. If this is the case we support the ARO suggestion of gradual implementation, perhaps with pilot arrangements in some regions, and look forward to discussing with ONS how this might be done.

Yours sincerely

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

STEVEN BROOMHEAD
Chief Executive