

National Statistician and Registrar General

**Len Cook**

Malcolm Britton  
Department for Education and Skills  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
Westminster  
SW1P 3BT

7 November 2003

Dear Malcolm,

**QUALITY REVIEW OF INITIAL ENTRY RATE INTO HIGHER EDUCATION**

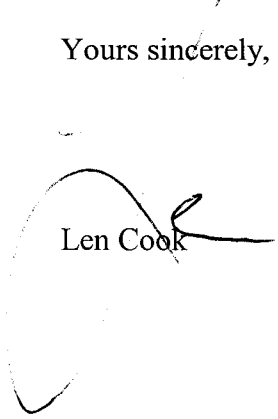
Thank you for the submission of the Quality Review of Initial Entry Rate into Higher Education. Having read the report I welcome and approve its content. Your report is excellent and of the sort we need to analyse all our sensitive performance measures over time. It will be an invaluable example for others to use as a benchmark.

I agree that the measure should become a National Statistic, in terms of its process, and this report fulfils the obligations to periodically assess quality.

This review is also confirming some of the matters raised in other reviews, particularly the need for relevant denominators before analysis is offered. This aspect of the study, and those parts on the precision of the numerator, and its use as a flow and stock, are challenges in many performance measures, which this report has analysed most insightfully.

I look forward to seeing the implementation of recommendations in the Review and would like to thank the team involved in the production of the report.

Yours sincerely,



Len Cook