
Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician

Maree Todd MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

DSG(2022)C022

Our Ref: OC/2022/0695

26 July 2022

Dear Ms Todd,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your email of 11 July, regarding regional break downs of employment figures in the renewables sector.

The Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Economy estimates are currently only available at UK and country level. At the moment, businesses report where their activity takes place and, given the size of the sample for the survey, it is not possible to disaggregate the estimates to a lower geographical level.

In April 2022, we published work exploring regional estimates of activity in the low carbon and renewable energy economy, UK and regions of England¹, which explored methods to estimate turnover and employment by combining our survey data with other sources. We intend to continue and build on this work.

As well as the Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Economy, we also produce estimates of the Environmental Goods and Services Sector², which is based on international statistical guidance. In our review article on options for defining a green job³, we explain and compare these, as well as other options including that from the International Labour Organization.

We recently published our workplan for current and upcoming work⁴ related to green jobs, along with a number of exploratory pieces of work. As part of this work, we will be issuing a consultation in the coming weeks to increase our understanding of user needs on this topic. Should this be of interest to you, we would encourage you to share your views.

The consultation will cover options for a definition, as well as why users are interested and what data characteristics they would like to see. Informed by the responses to the consultation whilst building on our current work, we will develop and publish new experimental definitions, methodologies and, eventually, the first estimates of green jobs.

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/exploringregionalestimatesofactivityinthelowcarbonandrenewableenergyeconomyukandregionsofengland/2020>

²<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/ukenvironmentalgoodsandservicessectoregss/latest>

³<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/methodologies/thechallengesofdefiningagreenjob>

⁴<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/greenjobscurrentandupcomingwork/march2022>

Thank you for your interest in our statistics. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

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

Professor Sir Ian Diamond