



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Mr Nick Bailey  
Department of Urban Studies  
School of Social and Political Sciences  
University of Glasgow  
25 Bute Gardens  
GLASGOW  
G12 8RS

Our Ref:  
Your Ref:  
  
3 October 2012

Dear Mr Bailey,

**Complaint about breach of ethical standards**

Thank you for your letter of 23 August about the DCLG report 'Listening to Troubled Families'.

I have considered the issues in your letter and your concerns in relation to GSR Professional Guidance, '*Ethical Assurance for Social Research in Government*'. This guidance note relates to social research conducted by Government which is best defined in a further guidance note '*Publishing research in Government*', available on the web.

Having considered these guidance notes, their definitions of social research and the report in question, I can confirm that I do not consider 'Listening to Troubled Families' as being within the definition of Government social research and thus the scope of the guidance. My rationale for this is that this report falls more properly within the description 'dipstick/informal information gathering'.

While I understand that you have already raised issues about the report with the Troubled Families team directly, I have forwarded your complaint onto that team.

A copy of this letter goes to Stephen Aldridge, Director for Analysis and Innovation in DCLG, and to Nick Burkitt in the Troubled Families team.

Yours faithfully,

**Jane Todorovic**