



Public Administration Select Committee (PASC)

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Sir Andrew Dilnot
Chair, UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
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12th March 2014

Dear Andrew

Statistics on Regional Gross Value Added

Thank you for your letter of 6 January.

Particularly in the run-up to the referendum on Scottish independence, I am surprised that there are statistics on Regional Gross Value Added (GVA) for Scotland, but not for England (apart from the experimental figure discussed in your letter, which we cannot rely upon). In addition, the data for Scotland does not seem to be published in the same place as the data for figures we do have for the UK. I would be grateful for your views on the following questions:

1. Given the lack of GVA data for England, is it possible to produce a GVA figure for the UK excluding Scotland, or are the data relating to Scotland not consistent with the UK data?
2. Can you tell me why no regional GVA figures below the UK level exist, apart from for Scotland? How might ONS be prompted to produce such figures? This seems particularly pressing given the referendum.
3. In general, should the UKBA board seek to have England and Wales figures for key statistics where there are "national statistics" branded UK and Scottish figures?
4. In the absence of sub-UK figures, can the release of experimental figures be brought forward from December, as currently planned?

This is vital for an informed debate in the run up to the September referendum. I would urge you to ensure that comparable statistics are made available across the UK and for the UK as a whole. If you need to attach health warnings to the value of such statistics, then I presume the same health warning would apply to the Scottish statistics as well. I look forward to hearing from you.

Bernard Jenkin

Bernard Jenkin MP
Chairman of PASC