

WILLIAM CASH, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Michael Scholar KCB  
UK Statistics Authority  
Statistics House  
Tredegar Park  
Newport  
South Wales  
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Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Dear Sir Michael,

Following my question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 25<sup>th</sup> November on a debate on the Indemnity to the Bank of England (see the attached), I would be grateful if you might answer the following questions for me:

1. Were you informed of the true level of liquidity assistance and indebtedness?
2. If so, were you bound by confidentiality?
3. Given the impact on the statistical base for our economy, in many different spheres, of £61.6 billion, do you have concerns which should be referred to Parliament?
4. Have you communicated with the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee on those concerns?

I ask these questions because if we take the higher of the ONS figures for public sector net debt, and ensure we include the liabilities of RBS and Lloyds, together with public sector pensions and PFI, the total debt figure would be £2.6 – 3.1 trillion (or between 185 and 215% of GDP). Given this situation, I would be grateful if you might address those questions and come back to me as soon as possible.

*Yours faithfully*

*Bill Cash*