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**Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE**

Will Moy  
Full Fact  
9 Warwick Court  
London  
WC1R 5DJ

11 November 2015

Dear Will,

**EEA MIGRANTS AND BENEFIT AND TAX CREDIT CLAIMS**

Thank you for your letter of 10 November expressing concern about the manner in which statistics related to benefit receipt of migrants were released to the press and in the Prime Minister's speech of the same date.

We have spoken with officials who have since published, late yesterday afternoon, an ad-hoc release entitled *Benefit claims by EEA nationals. UK Benefit and Tax Credit claims by recently arrived EEA migrants*<sup>1</sup> which sets out the background and methodology used. It is disappointing that this was not available at the same time as the figures were released.

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics expects that 'Statistical reports should be released into the public domain in an orderly manner that promotes public confidence and gives equal access to all' and that producers should 'publish details of the methods adopted'.

The release of these statistics without the subsequent accompanying background material explaining the methodology used made it hard for those interested to understand and scrutinise the statistics, which was clearly unsatisfactory. UK Statistics Authority officials will have further discussions with those involved to avoid the recurrence of such problems.

Yours sincerely



**Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE**

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/475765/uk-benefits-and-tax-credits-eea-migrants.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/475765/uk-benefits-and-tax-credits-eea-migrants.pdf)