

**Sir Michael Scholar KCB**  
**Chair-designate of the UK Statistics Authority**

Michael Fallon MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

3 March 2008

Dear Mr Fallon,

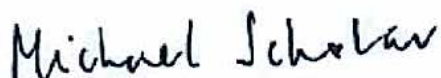
### **ONS LOCATION POLICY**

I am writing to you as Chair of the Treasury Sub-committee in relation to the session on 28 January, when I gave evidence to your inquiry on Counting the Population. As you know, I then, in answer to questions, deferred giving a view on the location of ONS staff until I had had the opportunity to discuss this with the rest of the Board of the UK Statistics Authority. At its second meeting on 21 February, the Authority discussed the issue of location, and I set out our conclusions below.

The Authority noted the history and progress to date of the ONS' relocation policy, and considered in outline the options which were open to it at this stage. The Authority concluded that it confirmed the ONS' location strategy, which aims to reduce ONS London staff numbers to about 100 posts by April 2010, and to bring about the eventual relocation of all ONS statistical work from London to Newport or Titchfield. The Authority also resolved to review and to monitor closely over the coming months the risks and business benefits of this policy.

The Authority recognised that, given the public concern which has been expressed about relocation, both by statistics users and also by ONS staff affected by relocation, there is a need to minimise any further uncertainty. We are accordingly making public our conclusions on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Michael Scholar  
Chair-designate of the UK Statistics Authority

