



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Sir Michael Scholar KCB  
Chair  
UK Statistics Authority  
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*Dear Sir Michael,*

At Prime Minister's Questions today in response to a question from the Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister claimed that violent crime had doubled. You are aware that when I was Home Secretary I wrote to you about the then opposition misleading the public about crime statistics. You confirmed at the time that the British Crime Survey was the most authoritative source for measuring crime in the UK. The BCS shows a reduction in violent crime of 41% since 1997.

Next week will see the publication of the annual BCS statistics. In the interests of accuracy and transparency for the public I am writing to ask you the following questions:

- What is your view on the comments made by the Prime Minister on violent crime at PMQs today?
- Does the British Crime Survey remain the most authoritative source we have for crime statistics?
- Does the current Home Office review of aspects of BCS methodology suggest the survey as it stands is inaccurate?
- Are there any other sources for crime statistics that may contradict the BCS that you would recognise as authoritative?



Given that the BCS statistics are published next Thursday I would ask you to respond before that date so that the credibility of the BCS can be determined prior to its publication. I am sure you would agree that it would be wholly wrong for the government to publish this data and then proceed to cast doubt upon its accuracy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alan Johnson'.

**Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP**