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Sir Michael Scholar
UK Statistics Authority
Statistics House
Islington
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25 June 2010

Dear Michael,

MINISTERIAL CODE: REFERENCE TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Thank you for your letter in November 2008, with suggested guidance to include in the Ministerial Code on statistical propriety. The Code was recently published (and can be found at: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/409215/ministerialcodemay2010.pdf>) and I am pleased to say that it contains the following guidance on page 20:

Ministers need to be mindful of the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice which defines good practice in relation to official statistics, observance of which is a statutory requirement on all organisations that produce National Statistics in accordance with the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

Ministers need to be mindful of the Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Order, which place strict conditions on access to official statistics in their final form, including limiting access ahead of publication and prohibits any statement or comment to the press ahead of release of the statistics.

Including this guidance within the Code will help ensure the commitment of ministers to the statistical system in the UK.

*Yours ever,
Gus*

Gus O'Donnell

