
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB

The Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP
Secretary of State for International Development
1 Palace Street
London
SW1E 5HE

6 January 2009

Dear Secretary of State

Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007: ODA/GNI Ratio

This letter is notification under section 16 of the above Act, which states that:

- (1) Where in the case of any official statistics other than statistics produced by the Board:
 - (a) the appropriate authority has not under section 12(1) requested the Board to assess and determine whether the Code of Practice for Statistics has been complied with, and
 - (b) the Board is of the view that it would be appropriate for it to do so, the Board must notify the appropriate authority accordingly.
- (2) Where the appropriate authority is a Minister of the Crown, the Board must lay a copy of its notification under subsection (1) before Parliament.

I understand that you are the appropriate authority for the ODA/GNI Ratio. This set of statistics is not currently designated as a National Statistic and is not therefore subject to formal assessment against the Code of Practice. Following a review of around 340 undesignated statistics, the Authority has decided to notify you that we are of the view that the ODA/GNI Ratio should be assessed against the Code with a view to designation.

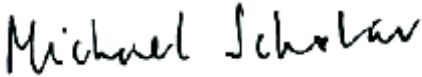
In accordance with subsections (3) to (5) of section 16 of the Act, I would be grateful if you could now provide me with one of the following:

- (a) a statement that you intend to make a request for assessment under section 12(1), including a timetable for making the request **or**
- (b) a statement that you do not intend making such a request, giving your reasons.

A copy of this notification is being laid before Parliament in accordance with section 16(2) above. Section 16(3) of the Act requires that a copy of your statement in response to this notification should also be laid before Parliament.

I enclose a copy of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* and a copy of the report *Priorities for Designation as Official Statistics*, which sets out the background to this notification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Scholar". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Copies to:
Minouche Shafik
Dr Heidi Grainger