
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Mr. Philip Hammond MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 November 2009

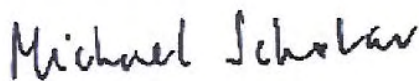
Dear Mr Hammond

IMPACT ON JOBS OF GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

Thank you for your letter dated 5 November 2009, in which you made a complaint to me about the Prime Minister's reported claim that 500,000 jobs are being protected in the recession by Government policies. You point out that this claim is at variance with advice provided by Treasury officials which has been made public and suggests that the measures taken could have supported between 250,000 and 450,000 jobs.

The *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007* sets out the duties and responsibilities of the Statistics Authority entirely in relation to the production and publication of official statistics; the definition of official statistics is set out in the Act. The National Statistician advises me that these estimates of jobs protected are not official statistics. In my view, therefore, it would be inappropriate for the Authority to comment on what are essentially speculative estimates in a political debate about the efficacy of government policy.

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Scholar KCB