
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Rt. Hon. Francis Maude MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AS

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Dear Francis

STATISTICS ON EMPLOYMENT BY GOVERNMENT

The Statistics Authority last week discussed the Cabinet Office's 18 June Press Release on public sector employment statistics.

We recognise the importance you attached to early publication of the information which had been assembled to supplement the official statistics on this subject, and we were glad to see it properly acknowledged in the Press Release that its numbers had not been validated or quality-assured.

We offer our help, through the services of the Office for National Statistics, in widening the scope and range of their public sector employment statistics. Such numbers, published by a Government Department and concerning issues of major political importance, are, in our view, clearly official statistics, and must therefore always conform to the Statistics Act's Code of Practice for Statistics.

I suggest that ONS and Cabinet Office officials work together to produce an extended and improved range of statistics on this important topic.

I am copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary and the National Statistician, Jil Matheson.

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Scholar KCB