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**Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE**

Lilian Greenwood MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

6 March 2015

Dear Ms Greenwood

**RAIL ELECTRIFICATION FIGURES**

Thank you for your letter of 20 February relating to statements made by Government Ministers about rail electrification projects.

The statutory remit of the UK Statistics Authority is the promotion and safeguarding of the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good. The Office for Rail Regulation publishes official statistics<sup>1</sup> showing trends in the estimated length of the rail network (15,753 kilometres in Great Britain in 2013-14) and the proportion of this which is electrified (5,268 kilometres, or 33.4 per cent).

However, whilst some official statistics relate to future time periods – such as population projections – I am not aware of any official statistics relating to the length of the rail network in future. It would therefore not be appropriate for me to offer a view about the issues you raise in your letter. You might however wish to consider raising your concerns with the National Audit Office.

Yours sincerely



**Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/displayreport/report/html/c35e0c28-324f-4168-81b9-be197963f251>