



Ministry of
JUSTICE

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Sir Michael Scholar KCB
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority
Statistics House
Islington
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12 January 2009

Dear Michael,

PRESS COVERAGE OF THE LAND REGISTRY'S HOUSE PRICE INDEX

Thank you for your letter of 22 December regarding the Land Registry's House Price Index.

You copied your letter to Peter Collis, the Chief Executive of HM Land Registry, and as this is essentially an operational matter for the Land Registry he will be sending you a substantive reply shortly.

I share your concern as to whether the public and policy makers have access to the most accurate, up to date and complete data in the most helpful form when they make decisions about the housing market. This is particularly relevant in the current economic conditions.

Therefore, I agree with your suggestion that the National Statistician chair a meeting of officials from the Land Registry and the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to discuss these issues. I understand that Peter Collis shares this view and will be confirming that when he writes to you.

Statisticians within the Ministry of Justice will be happy to assist in this process however they can. Indeed, I understand that Ministry officials are shortly to meet with a director from the Office for National Statistics to discuss how they can best continue.

I am copying this letter to Margaret Beckett MP at DCLG, Peter Collis and Karen Dunnell (the National Statistician).

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Straw', written in a cursive style.

JACK STRAW