
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Andrew Dilnot CBE

David Hanson MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

8 February 2013

Dear Mr Hanson

REPORTING OF CRIME STATISTICS

Thank you for your letter, regarding an article in the Sunday Times on 30 December 2012 in respect of figures described as having been released by the Government showing recent trends in crime. I am sorry for the delay in responding; it was necessary for me to complete various enquiries before doing so.

The National Statistician's office has looked into the source of the figures in the article and has confirmed that the various estimates are based on police recorded crime figures, for the years ending June 2010 and June 2012, which were already in the public domain as National Statistics at the time the article was published. We are therefore content that there was no breach of the rules governing pre-release access to official statistics.

I would emphasise that I believe it to be important for there to be a clear distinction between an official statistics release, prepared by professional statisticians to high standards, and other briefing prepared elsewhere in departments or by others.

I am copying this letter to Jil Matheson, the National Statistician, and David Blunt, Chief Statistician at the Home Office.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Dilnot CBE