



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

11 December 2012

Andrew Dilnot CBE
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
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Dear Mr Dilnot

Statistics on the net increase in private sector jobs since May 2010

In his Autumn Statement on 5 December 2012, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that "since this Coalition Government came to office, 1.2 million new jobs have been created in the private sector." We have frequently heard from members of the Coalition Government that over 1 million private sector jobs have been created since the May 2010 election; for example, the Prime Minister said in his 2012 Conference speech that "since this government took office, over one million new jobs have been created in the private sector."

I am concerned about the use of these statistics and would welcome independent clarification of the number of new private sector jobs created since May 2010. The ONS data showing public and private sector employment is, as far as I can see, released quarterly. In June 2010 (the first data set which includes jobs created following the election) there were 22,826,000 private sector jobs. In June 2012 (the most recent data set available) there were 23,896,000 private sector jobs.

The difference between these figures is of course less than the 1.2 million jobs which the Chancellor said were created in the private sector since the Coalition Government came to office. I would be grateful if you could confirm that the 1.2 million figure is inaccurate.

In addition, I understand that on 1 April 2012, as a result of the Government's Education Act 2011, 196,000 public sector posts in further education and sixth form colleges were reclassified as private sector jobs. These of course were not new jobs, but jobs that were simply reclassified. Excluding these reclassified jobs, surely the Government can only make the claim that 874,000 private sector jobs have been created since the May 2010 election? I would be very grateful if you could confirm that it would be better for Ministers to account for these aspects in any future claims, and whether you think it is an appropriate use of statistics for the Government to say that over a million *new* private sector jobs have been created since the May 2010 election when 196,000 of those jobs are not new, but reclassified.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Chris Leslie MP

Shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury