



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Andrew Dilnot
Chairman
UK Statistics Authority
Statistics House
Newport
NP10 8XG

12 December 2013

Dear Mr Dilnot,

We are writing to you to seek clarification about the settlement that Wolverhampton City Council has received this year and the reductions in government grant that the council has received since the 2010 General Election.

The Prime Minister, on a brief visit to Wolverhampton on 31 October this year, claimed that the council's "spending power" for the financial year 2013/14 was £2,676 per household. Whereas the council has said that their spending power for this year was only £2,583 per household.

Residents in Wolverhampton have, therefore, been given two different figures. Our understanding is that the council's figure is correct, but we believe that people in Wolverhampton deserve to have this confirmed by an impartial body. We would ask you, therefore, to clarify what was the council's actual spending power per household for the financial year 2013/2014?

The Prime Minister also said, referring to the council's spending cuts, that "it's a smaller cut than the average". We believe that these comments are highly disingenuous. We would ask if you could confirm what the reductions in spending power were in the two financial years prior to this, 2012-2013 and 2011-12, and over the rest of the current spending period? We would also be grateful if you could compare this to the average among English local authorities?

The Prime Minister did not mention the cuts to the council's grant. The truth is that this government has cut the council's grant by 43% in real terms since the general election. That includes a cut of over 27% in the financial year 2011/12. Can you confirm this is the case?



We recognise that the UK Statistics Authority is an impartial body and believe that it has a valuable role to play in ensuring statistics are not used in misleading ways. Our constituents have a right to be given an accurate representation of the figures and the full facts. We would, therefore, welcome your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emma Reynolds'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'E'.

Emma Reynolds MP
Wolverhampton North East

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pat McFadden'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP
Wolverhampton South East