



Sir Michael Scholar KCB
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The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Minister for Housing and Local Government

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Dear Sir Michael

STATISTICS AND REGISTRATION SERVICE ACT 2007: NOTIFICATION IN RELATION TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS PRODUCED BY THE HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AGENCY AND THE TENANT SERVICES AUTHORITY

Thank you for your letter dated 6 December in which you suggested, under section 16 of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, that I submit a request to the Authority for an assessment of all of the official statistics produced by the Homes and Communities Agency and Tenant Services Authority under the terms set out in Section 12 of the Act.

The Department is mindful at all times of the need to guarantee the independence not only of our own official statistics but also those produced by the public bodies we sponsor. To this end, DCLG Ministers and officials alike pay full respect to the strict principles and procedures set out Code of Practice for Official Statistics and the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order. In that context, I refer you to my letter to the Hon Member for Birmingham Erdington of 2 December 2011, which I copied to the National Statistician and which was placed in the House of Commons Library. That letter sets out the Government's position clearly.

Turning to the practicalities of your suggestion, you will be aware that as part of the Government's wider reforms of public bodies the Tenant Services Authority is due to be abolished and its functions absorbed in a new and streamlined Homes and Communities Agency. In addition, the Homes and Communities Agency will transfer budgets, investment and delivery functions for London to the Greater London Authority from 1 April. Added to the transfer of regulation to the HCA, this represents significant structural and delivery change for the organisation and for these reasons, I would suggest that we review later in the year.

Once the role and function of the reconstituted Homes and Communities Agency has been established, I am minded to submit a request to the UK Statistics Authority for an assessment of its official statistics – I anticipate this assessment would begin in September 2012.

A copy of this letter will be laid before Parliament in accordance with section 16(3) of the Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Shapps".

GRANT SHAPPS MP