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Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Chair of the UK Statistics Authority
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Date: 08 APR 2011

Dear Sir Michael

Thank you for your letter of 16 March about my press release of 21 February about crime figures on public transport. It raises a number of points regarding the use of statistics and in particular the importance of encouraging public confidence.

I am naturally very keen that good news about improvements in safety and crime reduction are brought to Londoners' attention. People expect the Mayor to possess up-to-date information about issues affecting their lives in the capital city and I am satisfied that this is happening based on the principles of statistical relevance, integrity and quality.

Statistical data for London is regional level data and therefore should not form part of national statistics. I see no good reason to change current arrangements.

However, it would have been helpful had you approached me first about your concerns about statistical standards for London before publicly releasing your letter.

Your letter to me was copied to the Home Secretary and the Minister for the Cabinet Office, so I will keep them apprised of my views on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London