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Sir Michael Scholar  
UK Statistics Authority  
Statistics House  
Tredegar Park  
Newport  
South Wales  
NP10 8XG



16 March 2012

Dear Sir Michael,

As you know in 2010, we amended the Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008 and added five public bodies. Each of the bodies have now published at least one Official Statistic which provides evidence of our desire to drive up statistical standards in Scotland. Thank you for your support in 2010 for this work programme. We advised you at that point that our liaison with public bodies would be ongoing and that it was likely that we would amend the order again.

In accordance with Section 6(3) of the Statistics and Registration Service Act, I am writing today to consult the UK Statistics Authority on the Scottish Government's plans to further amend the Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008 to include five additional bodies:

- Scottish Ambulance Service Board
- NHS 24
- Scottish Social Services Council
- Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Care Inspectorate)
- Sustrans Ltd

Please note that, for Sustrans Ltd, the order will specify that only those statistics produced on behalf of Scottish Ministers will be in scope. In practice, this means the 'Hands-Up Scotland' survey and any other statistics which Sustrans may produce for Scottish Ministers in the future.

We believe that the enabling of these bodies to produce Official Statistics will further drive up standards and transparency in the production of statistics central to public sector decision making.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that the UK Statistics Authority are content with the proposal outlined above. It is our intention to lay the amended order before the Scottish Parliament Finance Committee directly after Easter recess to allow completion of the Parliamentary process before the start of summer recess. As such, it would be extremely helpful if you were able to respond by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

*David Campbell*

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