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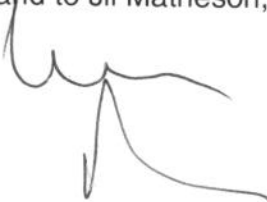


Thank you for letter of 31 August and the enclosed report: The Assessment of UK Official Statistics 2009 – 2012, summarising the work of the Programme of Statutory Assessment of UK Official Statistics so far.

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues at the UK Statistics Authority for your hard work in preparing the report and of course in completing this cycle of assessments, the most comprehensive audit of official statistics ever undertaken in the United Kingdom.

I welcome your focus on the users of official statistics, ensuring that statistics are easy to find and use so that the insights provided by the data can be maximised.

I am copying this letter to the Ministers with responsibility for official statistics in each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; to Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair of the Public Administration Select Committee; to Lord Lipsey, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Statistics; to Professor Valerie Isham, President of the Royal Statistical Society; and to Jil Matheson, the National Statistician.



FRANCIS MAUDE

