



From the Secretary of State
for Work and Pensions

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Dear Sir Michael,

STATISTICS ON THE NATIONALITY OF BENEFIT CLAIMANTS

Thank you for your letter of today, prompted by representations you had received regarding our release of statistics on 20 January about the nationality and immigration status of working-age benefit claimants.

The release published on the Department's ad hoc analysis web site was prepared by the Department's statisticians to appropriate professional standards. The report includes all relevant information about the sources of the data and any caveats or limitations.

The Department takes its obligations under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics very seriously and I note that no breach of the Code took place.

Ministers followed professional advice throughout this process regarding the status of this release from the Head of Profession for Statistics.

I note your point that if the exercise were to be repeated then it would be appropriate for subsequent releases to be as official statistics, however, we have no plans at present to repeat this analysis.

The Head of Profession for Statistics will be in discussion with your officials regarding any follow-up actions.

The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS