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Sir Michael Scholar KCB
Chairman, UK Statistics Authority
Statistics House
Tredegar Park
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Dear Sir Michael,

I am writing to you about the use of statistics by the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to the Mandatory Work Activity trial scheme.

On the 5th January 2012 an article appeared in the Daily Mail written by James Chapman. The article can be viewed at this web address:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2082356/Workshy-benefits-bed.html>.

The article appears to present specific data on the outcomes of the Mandatory Work Activity pilots. It states: *'Figures show that 20 per cent of those ordered to take part in four-week community projects stop claiming immediately and another 30 per cent are stripped of their benefits when they fail to turn up'*. The article claims that this information comes from Government sources.

It would appear that this article contains briefed statistics on a Government employment programme that ought to have been released into the public domain with the correct statistical diligence.

I would be grateful for your comments on this matter.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN TIMMS MP