
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

16 March 2011

Dear Home Secretary

OFFICIAL STATISTICS: TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

I today wrote to the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, about his Press Release of 21 February on crime across the London Transport network, in which Transport for London (TfL) statistics were published ahead of their normal release date alongside political comment by the Mayor. TfL's statistics are not currently classified as Official Statistics, and therefore there is no requirement in law for TfL, or those who have access to TfL statistics ahead of their publication, to comply with the provisions of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*. This seems a very great pity to me, and I enclose a copy of my letter to the Mayor, in which I criticise the premature and selective publication of these statistics.

We believe that statistics about transport in London, including statistics on crime and anti-social behaviour on the London Transport network, are of sufficient importance to be treated with the same care and propriety as other important official statistics which are produced by Government Departments, the Devolved Administrations and those non-Crown bodies specified in secondary legislation made under the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*.

I have therefore also written to the Minister for the Cabinet Office today, to request that the Cabinet Office classify TfL's statistics as Official Statistics under section 6 of the Statistics Act 2007, at the earliest available opportunity. I note that the Explanatory Notes to the Act said that the 'kind of bodies whose statistics might be added under this section are local authorities, health authorities and non-departmental public bodies that are not Crown bodies'. I hope that our proposal meets with your support.

I am copying this letter to Francis Maude.

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Scholar KCB