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Andrew Dilnot CBE
Chair
UK Statistics Authority
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1 November 2012

Dear *Mr Dilnot*

Thank you for your letter of 1 November and the enclosed Monitoring Review on the quality of statistics about Welfare to Work schemes.

As the Authority has noted, DWP has set out its strategy for releasing these statistics. Our aim is to balance the principles of developing a robust set of statistics, while releasing information as early as possible. The nature of the schemes also means that meaningful conclusions, such as the long-term impact of them on job outcomes, will emerge over time.

The report acknowledges that there are sound reasons why the key measure for the Work Programme on job outcomes take time to produce. We have announced that the first set of outcome statistics will be published on 27 November.

The Authority has made some useful points about how we can help users of our statistics to understand the various publications, the key messages they give about each scheme and the overall position on Welfare to Work. It has always been our intention to look at ways we can improve these statistics in light of feedback from users' experiences. I have therefore asked my statisticians to consider the specific points that the Authority has raised.

*Ben
Mr Ish*

Mark Hoban MP
Minister for Employment