
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Jackie Baillie MSP
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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Dear Ms Baillie

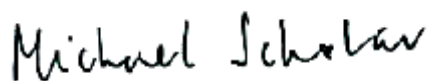
STATISTICS ON THE NHS WORKFORCE IN SCOTLAND

Thank you for your letter dated 8 July raising concerns about the presentation of statistics in a Scottish ministerial statement about the National Health Service workforce in Scotland.

I have asked my officials to look into the points you made in your letter, and to review the press release and the available sources of statistical information on this subject. Our view is that it would have been clearer for users of these statistics if the press release had cited both the Public Sector Employment Statistics and the NHS Boards Projected Staff publications : indeed, it should have done so in order to be consistent with Protocol 2 (9) (a) of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

The differences between the published and unpublished statistical material are small, and the use of unpublished revised figures had little overall impact on the analysis. Nevertheless we also conclude that it would have been better had the press release, consistently with the Code of Practice, made it clear that the analysis was new and not drawn directly from published statistical sources.

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Scholar KCB