



PACAC (Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee)

House of Commons · London SW1A 0AA

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Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE
Chair
UK Statistics Authority
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24 May 2016

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your letter about the trade statistics used in the government's leaflet sent to households about the EU referendum and your discussion of the Rotterdam effect. I would like to check a couple of things with you about the leaflet and its production.

In the note from Jonathan Athow attached to your letter to me, Mr. Athow comments that:

The second issue Mr Jenkin raises is on the table of jobs and share of exports to the EU in particular sectors Mr Jenkin asks for other information to be provided on the employment and exports of different industrial sectors. As the table in the document is produced by combining HMRC and ONS data, producing equivalent data for other sectors is not particularly straightforward.

Before this letter, I had assumed that the leaflet purely contained a compilation of published data, as is suggested by the footnote explaining the figures.¹ It appears from your letter that the Office for National Statistics did some work in combining data sets to generate the figures in the table in the Treasury leaflet.

I would like to know

- The extent and nature of the involvement of Office for National Statistics in the production of this leaflet.
- Which figures in the leaflet were produced bespoke, or an ad-hoc data release – in other words could not be derived by a member of the public from published data.
- Whether, in the case of this table and any others which were bespoke, the full data set has been published with a commentary from a professional statistician.

¹ [Why the government believes that voting to remain in the EU is the best choice for the UK April 2016](#)

- In the absence of such a publication, whether you consider that there has been a breach of the code in the production of this data and what action you will be taking.
- Does UKSA consider that the publication of this data in this way is consistent with the principles of open access under the code?

Ben White

James

Bernard

Bernard Jenkin MP
Chair Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee