
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

Dominic Cummings
Vote Leave
Westminster Tower
London
SE1 7SP

27 May 2016

Dear Mr Cummings

Thank you for your letter of 17 May regarding the UK's financial contributions to the EU.

The UK's official gross contribution for 2014 before the application of the rebate was £19.1 billion¹. As I have made clear previously, this is not an amount of money that the UK pays to the EU each year. The full £19.1 billion is not a net contribution.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) note attached to my letter to Norman Lamb on 21 April² sets out the figures before and after the rebate for the most recent years and also those taking account of payments direct from the EU.

The issue of 2015 net contribution figures was discussed in my earlier response to the chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee, Mr Bernard Jenkin MP, in the note from the ONS attached to my response³. The information in the quarterly release to which you refer is subject to revision. The final figures published in the 2016 Pink Book in July could therefore be higher or lower than the number to which you refer.

You asked again about the use of tables 9.1 and 9.2 of the Pink Book to gauge transfers between the UK public and private sectors and the EU. As I stated in my letter to you of 10 May, the ONS advise against using tables 9.1 and 9.2 for this purpose and these tables include a footnote recommending the use of table 9.9 for a complete picture of UK official transactions.

On the subject of fines, I have nothing to add to the estimates set out in my previous letter. Your question about Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) liabilities and contingent liabilities is best directed to HMRC themselves.

Finally, you asked whether we are investigating the £4,300 figure. We have received one inquiry about this, from Jack Doyle of the Daily Mail, and I draw your attention to my reply to him, published on 27 May 2016 on the UK Statistics Authority website.

¹ Table 9.9 of the ONS Pink Book 2015

http://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/compendium/unitedkingdombalanceofpaymentsthepinkbook/2015-10-30/unitedkingdombalanceofpaymentsthepinkbook/pinkbook2015chapter9_tcm77-422053.xls

² <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/eu-contributions/>

³ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Letter-from-Sir-Andrew-Dilnot-to-Bernard-Jenkin-MP-240316.pdf>

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Dilnot". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a distinct 'D'.

Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE