

From: Chris Manners
Sent: 16 March 2017
To: Authority Enquiries
Subject: Professor Richard Murphy blog post

Dear Sir/Madam,

I don't know if you've seen this yourself already, but there has been a bizarre, rather provocative blog post by Richard Murphy on the subject of the Scottish GERs.

<http://www.taxresearch.org.uk/Blog/2017/03/14/why-economic-data-provided-by-london-will-not-help-the-scottish-independence-debate>

He makes rather extraordinary allegations about the GERs, and while allowing that they are produced in Scotland, seems to think that they're derived from UK derived figures in some sort of simplistic way. Not only that, he suggests that the figures produce in some sort of way that is unfair on Scotland. This would seem to suggest that the figures are produced by incompetents or dishonest UK statisticians.

As you know, Scottish finances are very much a live political issue. I do not think he ought to be able to denigrate UK statisticians like this, without some sort of formal response from you.

Please let me know what you decide to do about this.

Regards

Mr C Manners