
Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation

Will Moy
Chief Executive, Full Fact

1 February 2022

Dear Will

Statements on the number of people in work

Thank you for your detailed letter of 21 January about statements on employment. It is disappointing to see incorrect claims about the number of people in work on repeated on multiple occasions.

As you have set out, the statements referred to the number of [UK workers on employer payrolls](#). This does not represent all employed people, for example, it excludes most self-employed and those whose jobs are not part of company payroll¹. ONS data on the number of people in employment estimates that for January – March 2020 there were 33.0m people in employment compared with 32.5m people in employment for September – November 2021 (the latest available data at the time the Prime Minister’s statements were made).

I have [written to the Director of Data Science at 10 Downing Street](#) to reiterate the importance of unambiguous public statements on employment.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation

¹ Pay As you Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information (RTI) measures the number of people who are being paid through the PAYE system via company payrolls. It could include self-employed people if someone has both an employee job and is self-employed (regardless of which is their main job) and does not include those whose jobs are not part of a company payroll or those whose company does not pay them through a PAYE scheme.