
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB

The Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP
Secretary of State for Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

6 January 2009

Dear Secretary of State

**Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007: National Child Measurement Programme;
Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet.**

This letter is notification under section 16 of the above Act, which states that:

- (1) Where in the case of any official statistics other than statistics produced by the Board:
 - (a) the appropriate authority has not under section 12(1) requested the Board to assess and determine whether the Code of Practice for Statistics has been complied with, and
 - (b) the Board is of the view that it would be appropriate for it to do so, the Board must notify the appropriate authority accordingly.
- (2) Where the appropriate authority is a Minister of the Crown, the Board must lay a copy of its notification under subsection (1) before Parliament.

I understand that you are the appropriate authority for the above statistics, which are produced by the NHS Information Centre. These statistics are not currently designated as National Statistics and are not therefore subject to formal assessment against the Code of Practice. Following a review of around 340 undesignated statistics, the Authority has decided to notify you that we are of the view that the above statistics should be assessed against the Code with a view to designation.

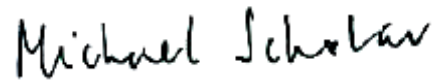
In accordance with subsections (3) to (5) of section 16 of the Act, I would be grateful if you could now provide me with one of the following:

- (a) a statement that you intend to make a request for assessment under section 12(1), including a timetable for making the request **or**
- (b) a statement that you do not intend making such a request, giving your reasons.

A copy of this notification is being laid before Parliament in accordance with section 16(2) above. Section 16(3) of the Act requires that a copy of your statement in response to this notification should also be laid before Parliament.

I enclose a copy of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* and a copy of the report *Priorities for Designation as Official Statistics*, which sets out the background to this notification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Scholar". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Copies to:
Tim Straughan
Andy Sutherland