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**Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB**

Chris Grayling MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

5 March 2010

Dear Mr Grayling

**VIOLENT CRIME STATISTICS**

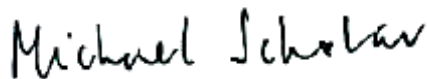
Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2010.

My office has kept me fully informed of discussions with yours. We have recommended in those conversations that, in order to meet your wish to ensure that you use reliable methodology in discussing recorded crime figures, you take sound professional statistical advice, and that the House of Commons Library is a good source of such professional advice.

I regret that this recommendation cannot be taken to be an *a priori* endorsement of the statistical robustness of any analysis to which you refer or of the use that you make of it. I hope that you will appreciate that the Statistics Authority is not in a position to make any judgement on robustness in advance; and, with modest resources at the Authority's disposal, we cannot offer a general advice service, either to Government or to Opposition or to anyone else. I am sorry about this.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely



**Sir Michael Scholar KCB**