
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Chris Grayling MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

10 February 2010

Dear Mr Grayling

VIOLENT CRIME STATISTICS

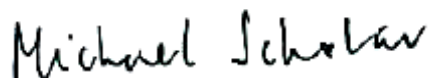
Thank you for your letter of 4 February.

I was glad to learn from press reports that you have undertaken to take the UK Statistics Authority's views into account in making further comments about crime statistics.

I was also grateful for your continuing support for independence in relation to the work of government statisticians, and for seeking further to restrict pre-release access. I am sure that this is the right way forward for improving public confidence in official statistics.

With regard to the examples cited in the attachment to your letter, these largely pre-date the creation of the Statistics Authority and/or they sufficiently, in our view, qualify the figures compared. I can assure you that the Statistics Authority will always be ready to intervene wherever it believes that the integrity of official statistics is at risk, whatever the political party involved.

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Scholar KCB