
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Tony Gallagher
Editor
Daily Telegraph
111, Buckingham Palace Road
LONDON
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21 April 2010

Dear Mr Gallagher

BROWN GETS KEY FIGURES BEFORE DEBATE: TUESDAY 20 APRIL 2010

I wish to protest about the remarks attributed to me in the above article in Tuesday's edition of your newspaper, that "Last night, Sir Michael Scholar, chairman of the UK Statistics Authority, said the situation was unacceptable".

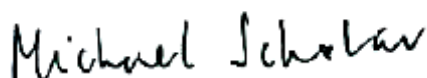
This is an inaccurate report. I did not make this comment. In fact, I deliberately made no personal comment on this matter, because I wish to avoid if possible being drawn into political controversy in the pre-election period. The Authority's Press Officer made it clear to your correspondent that I was not commenting. The Press Officer provided the following comments from the Authority in response to the questions which were being put to us:

- the decisions on this matter [i.e. the statutory arrangements for pre-release access to UK official statistics], under the legislation, are reserved for the UK Government;
- the Authority's view from the beginning has been that pre-release access to official statistics should be the minimum possible - 3 hours or less; and,
- the Authority's recent report reviewing the statutory arrangements for pre-release access in the UK, and the accompanying News Release, sets out the Authority's position in full.

I regret that your correspondent wrote an inaccurate report.

This letter will be placed on the Authority's website.

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Scholar KCB