

Rob Wilson MP

Reading East



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

8 July 2014

Dear Sir Andrew,

I am writing with regard to an article by Chuka Umunna MP, for the *New Statesman*, which makes a number of factually inaccurate claims about the number of young people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance.

Mr Umunna claims that, 'the number of young people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance nationally has increased by 60 per cent since May 2010' (*New Statesman*, 7 July 2014, [link](#)).

However, according to ONS Labour Market Statistics the number has actually fallen nationally by 40 per cent. In May 2010 there were 429,300 18-24 year olds claiming JSA, there are now 265,600, a fall of 163,700 (ONS, *Labour Market Statistics*, 11 June 2014, CLA02).

Mr Umunna goes on to say that 'in the Northeast that figure is 263 per cent'.

Again this is factually inaccurate. In May 2010 there were 23,375 18-24 year olds claiming JSA in the North-East, in May 2014 this had fallen to 17,065, a fall of 27 per cent.

I would be very grateful for your guidance on this statistical question, so that Mr Umunna and his researcher might have an opportunity to fully correct the record.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'RW'.

ROB WILSON MP

Member of Parliament for Reading East