



Ministry
of Justice

Shailesh Vara MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State for Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

T 020 3334 3555
F 020 3334 3669
E general.queries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/moj

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

Our ref: 7119

17th November 2014

Dear Sir Andrew

FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON LEGAL AID

Thank you for your letter of March this year, in which you set out some areas of concern in relation to statistics on legal aid and noted that the Legal Aid Agency had begun a programme of work to improve the quality and transparency of these statistics.

You also noted that MoJ planned to make a formal request in the second half of 2014 for the Authority to conduct an assessment to determine whether the Code of Practice for Official Statistics is complied with in relation to these statistics.

I now formally request under S12 of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 that you assess the statistics on legal aid.

To ensure this assessment can be managed alongside core Legal Aid Agency business, and to maximise their effectiveness and use of constrained resources, I would be grateful if my officials and your Monitoring and Assessment Team can liaise in order to agree timing.

Yours sincerely
Shailesh Vara

SHAILESH VARA