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**Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE**

Ashwin Kumar  
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Dear Mr Kumar,

**REGIONAL STATISTICS**

Thank you for your letter of 19 May.

My officials have been in contact with the statistical Head of Profession at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). We understand that DCLG statisticians have provided you with advice about which tables to use to find the data required to calculate the regional figures, and where information can be found about which region each authority is located in. I trust that this has allowed you to perform the calculations.

My view remains that the appropriate level of geographical disaggregation at which the statistics should be made available to users should be decided by the statistical Head of Profession. The present situation in ministerial government Departments is that decisions about the allocation of resources to the production and publication of statistics rest with the relevant Minister. I continue to share the view of my predecessor, Sir Michael Scholar, that the independence of statistical work in government Departments needs to be strengthened further. In his letter to the Prime Minister of 12 May 2010<sup>1</sup>, Sir Michael called for greater weight to be given to the role of Departmental Heads of Profession for Statistics reporting to the National Statistician as their manager on professional matters, and for the Statistics Authority to be given a role in decisions about spending on statistics in Departments.

Table 4 of the (revised) Statistical Release 'Council Tax Levels Set by Local Authorities in England - 2012-13' provided estimates of average Band D council tax rates, but this analysis has not been published subsequently. I understand that the calculation is straightforward, so the resource implications for DCLG of publishing the analysis would be very small. My officials have not been able to find any guidance on DCLG's website about how to perform the calculation, and we will raise this matter with DCLG's Head of Profession.

Yours sincerely,



**Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/letter-from-sir-michael-scholar-to-prime-minister-12052010.pdf>