
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

Chris Skidmore MP
Minister for the Constitution
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Dear Minister,

It was good to meet you this week to talk about the role and work of the UK Statistics Authority, ONS economic statistics following Professor Sir Charles Bean's review, and data access legislation.

The Digital Economy Bill, currently before the House of Commons Public Bill Committee, represents a unique opportunity to deliver the transformation of UK statistics. The existing legal framework governing access to data for official statistics is complex and time-consuming.

The proposals in the Bill, by making use of data already held across government and beyond, would deliver better access to administrative data for the purposes of statistics and research, delivering significant efficiencies and savings for individuals, households and businesses. Decision makers need accurate and timely data to make informed decisions, in particular about the allocation of public resource. This Bill would deliver better statistics and statistical research to help Britain make better decisions.

My colleagues will continue to give you every support as the Bill continues to be considered by Parliament and if you would like to discuss anything further in detail please do contact me. I look forward to working with you going forward.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE