
Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician & Head of Performance
Scottish Government
Room 2W.02
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13 December 2016

Dear Roger,

Query over Student Awards Agency for Scotland statistics report

The Herald Newspaper on Thursday 8th December¹ reported that the Student Award Agency for Scotland amended text in a statistics report² and raised questions about whether this might have been politically motivated.

I understand that you are aware of this issue and in the interests of maintaining public confidence in statistics in Scotland, I suggest that it would be helpful for you to issue a statement on this. I would encourage you to comment on the issue that arose, change that was made and to clarify your role as Chief Statistician for the Scottish Government in overseeing this process.

It might be helpful for you also to review compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics of the statistics report in question; we noticed in exploring this issue that there is no named statistician which is a requirement designed to enhance the trustworthiness of statistics publications.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson

¹

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14952679.Government_agency_deleted_student_bursary_reference_in_report_after_SNP_Government_intervened/?c=i6cla5/

² Available at: <https://beta.gov.scot/news/higher-education-student-support-for-scotland-2015-16/>