

Chief Statistician

Roger Halliday

T: 0131-244 0302

E: chiefstatistician@gov.scot



Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
Office for Statistical Regulation
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ



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Dear Ed

Student Awards Agency for Scotland statistics report

You wrote to me about this statistical report and newspaper claims that questioned the propriety of changes made to text in the report. I wanted to outline what I have done in response to this situation.

I have made a statement that appears alongside the statistics on the Student Awards Agency for Scotland website – see link http://www.saas.gov.uk/about_us/corporate_news.htm. I have sent the same message to our ScotStat mailing list of users of these statistics.

You also suggested I review arrangements for this statistical report. On an initial inspection, I think the report helpfully brings out the key statistics and the handling was consistent with the code. As with Scottish Government statistics, contact details are at the back of the publication. It was quickly clear, however, that the statistics need to be made easier to find and we will rectify that. As with all our statistics, the statistician putting the next higher education student support in Scotland statistics publication together will be looking to improve the quality and impact of the statistics whilst maintaining our trustworthiness.

I believe that we have good arrangements in Scotland for ensuring the handling of statistical publications in accordance with the code of practice. As part of the planned changes to the code, I want to do some further learning for statisticians across Scotland about its application and will speak to your colleagues about this.

Yours sincerely

Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

