

Sir David Norgrove  
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority

*(via email)*

23 April 2018

**The impact of immigration on house prices (Case Ref: TB88841)**

Dear Sir David,

I am writing to you following the UK Statistics Authority's comments about Dominic Raab's interview with the Sunday Times, published on Sunday 8th April 2018, in which he cited figures from the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit analysis, which incorporated Office for National Statistics data on property prices between 1991 and 2016. In this interview, he suggested immigration had led to a 21% increase in house prices over the last 25 years.

You will no doubt have seen the briefing from which this figure was taken.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/699846/OFF\\_SEN\\_Ad\\_Hoc\\_SFR\\_House\\_prices\\_v\\_PDF.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/699846/OFF_SEN_Ad_Hoc_SFR_House_prices_v_PDF.pdf)

I would like to ask a few questions about this.

Firstly does the UK Stats Authority have a responsibility to assess whether this analysis is based on appropriate assumptions?

If it does, has such an analysis been carried out? If an analysis was carried out, did it confirm that the assumptions and conclusions were correct and specifically the alleged 21% increase in house prices linked to immigration?

Secondly, does the UK Stats Authority have a duty to ensure Ministers present information fairly and accurately? And if it does, by selecting to focus on the impact of immigration on house prices, rather than the increase in real incomes (which has an effect over seven times greater than immigration), is the Minister guilty of distorting the real reason for house price increases to suit his own political agenda?

I look forward to your response.

Regards

**Tom Brake MP**  
Liberal Democrat for Carshalton and Wallington