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**Director General for Regulation**

Gordon Lindhurst MSP  
Convener  
Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

21 May 2018

Dear Convener

Thank you for your Committee's report on Scottish Economic Data. We welcome how the Committee has set out a series of recommendations that we believe will support the trustworthiness, quality and value of Scottish economic statistics.

I have seen the response from the Scottish Government's Chief Statistician, and in particular we noted the Pre Release Access aspects of his response. We do not want to comment on the detail of the market sensitivity analysis, because we have always seen market sensitivity as merely a special case of the broader case against pre release access. This broader case emphasises the equality of access to official statistics as a key component of the trustworthiness in a statistical system.

This is the Authority's long-standing policy position. In Scotland, it is for the Chief Statistician to determine the appropriate arrangements for pre release access to official statistics. Our regulatory role involves monitoring whether the operation of the pre release access arrangements is in line with the position set out by the Chief Statistician, and we will continue to do so.

Your sincerely



Ed Humpherson  
Director General for Regulation