
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir David Norgrove

Rt Hon John McDonnell MP
Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer
(via email)

31 October 2018

Dear Mr McDonnell,

The UK Statistics Authority's attention was recently drawn to statements you made regarding the Labour Party's Inclusive Ownership Funds policy. We were asked to consider the evidence base underpinning the claim that *"That's 11 million workers each with a greater say, and a greater stake in the rewards of their labour"* and that *"Dividend payments made through IOFs...would result in re-distribution of the benefits of wealth. Our estimates for its size, using the same database, in the final year of the Labour government, are £2.1bn"*.

We spoke to your office who provided sources underpinning the statement on employment, and gave a breakdown of the approach taken to deriving the surplus funds arising from the policy. It would have been helpful for information about sources to be published at the time the claims were made. It is not our role, of course, to take a view about any assumptions that were made.

The Authority has written to the Labour Party previously about a lack of published information on sources, assumptions and methods to support statements.¹ I would welcome a meeting between your team and the Office of Statistics Regulation to discuss how the Labour Party might apply the principles of *the Code of Practice for Statistics* in its communication of data.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the Opposition.

Yours sincerely



Sir David Norgrove

¹ See for example: [Response to statements on free bus travel](#) and [Response regarding comments on Universal Credit](#)