
Director General for Regulation

Philip Rycroft
Permanent Secretary
DExEU
(By email)

9 November 2018

Dear Philip

On 13 October 2018 Sir David Norgrove, Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, received correspondence¹ from the Rt Hon Lord Lilley which asked him to investigate the statistics quoted in paragraph 16b of the White Paper on *The Future relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union*². It asked specifically about the statement that “Under the UK’s proposals, it is estimated up to 96 per cent of UK goods trade would be most likely to be able to pay the correct or no tariff upfront, with the remainder most likely to use the repayment mechanism”.

In circumstances like this there are often a range of plausible estimates. It would have been helpful if an explanation of the calculation, assumptions and impact of these assumptions had been published alongside the White Paper to allow the public to understand the basis of the figure.

Our Code of Practice for Statistics requires that assumptions and methodologies are published at the time a claim is made, or earlier. In line with the Code I would encourage you to publish details of your estimate of 96 per cent at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation

¹ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/statements-on-ukeu-white-paper/>

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/725288/The_future_relationship_between_the_United_Kingdom_and_the_European_Union.pdf