
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir David Norgrove

The Rt Hon Tom Brake MP
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

14 May 2018

Dear Mr Brake,

Thank you for your email of 23 April, regarding statements made by Minister of State for Housing about the impact of migration on house prices.¹

You asked both about the role of the UK Statistics Authority in ensuring Ministers present information fairly, and about our role in scrutinising analysis published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on this issue.

In making public statements about the dissemination and use of statistics the Authority is guided by its overarching statutory objective to safeguard the production and dissemination of statistics. A description of our long-standing practices is published on our website.²

The Authority's priority in this case was to ensure equality of access and transparency. There is often a range of assumptions and methodologies which can be used in analyses and it is important that these are presented clearly. I am pleased that MHCLG have published the analysis referred to by the Minister. This allows others to scrutinise the assumptions, and to consider Mr Raab's comments in the context of other factors affecting house prices.

I am copying this letter to the Minister of State for Housing, and to the Ministry's Head of Profession for Statistics.

Yours sincerely



Sir David Norgrove

¹ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/impact-of-immigration-on-house-prices>

² UK Statistics Authority (October 2017): [The Authority's role in making public interventions on the use of statistics](#)