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**Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir David Norgrove**

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Owen CH FRCP  
House of Lords  
Westminster  
London SW1A 0PW  
(by email)

2 October 2018

Dear Lord Owen,

Thank you for your letter of 19 September asking me to consider the Prime Minister's statement that membership of the European Economic Area (EEA) would entail the payment of "vast" sums of money to the EU.

Estimates of possible UK contributions were we to join the EEA vary widely. But in any event it would be difficult to say that the description of any of them as vast is wrong or misleading. It is a subjective term.

The UK Statistics Authority has consistently urged the importance of using clear terms when making qualitative descriptions of numbers.

Yours sincerely



**Sir David Norgrove**