
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir David Norgrove

Annie Wells MSP
Conservative Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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(via email)

11 June 2021

Dear Ms Wells,

Thank you for your letter of 4 June to Professor Sir Ian Diamond about the use of unpublished statistics by the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care relating to hospital admissions for children.

As you said, the figure used was not available publicly at the time the statement was made. I am pleased that the figure has subsequently been published by the Scottish Government¹. This has also clarified the definition used to determine COVID-19 admissions to hospital: “A patient may have tested positive for COVID-19 up to 14 days prior to admission to hospital, on the day of their admission or during their stay in hospital.”

Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, has written to the Chief Statistician at Scottish Government today to reiterate our expectation that when statistics are used publicly to inform parliaments or the media they should be published in an accessible form with appropriate explanation².

Yours sincerely,



Sir David Norgrove

¹ [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): additional data and information](#), Scottish Government, 3 June 2021

² [Ed Humpherson to Roger Halliday: Use of hospital admission data](#), Office for Statistics Regulation, 11 June 2021