



Angela Eagle MP

Labour Member of Parliament for Wallasey

Serving the communities of: Egremont, Leasowe, Liscard, Moreton,
New Brighton, Poulton, Saughall Massie, Seacombe and Wallasey Village

Sir Robert Chote
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

28 April 2023

Dear Sir Robert,

Misleading Government Social Media Content

I am writing to raise concerns over statistics used by the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding the state of the public finances which I believe to be inaccurate and misleading.

Recently, the Chancellor has made misleading claims on public debt figures through his Twitter account.

On [25 April](#) Mr Hunt said that headline debt levels are reducing by £53.7 billion by 2027/28.

However, Table A.9 of the OBR Economic and fiscal outlook published in March 2023 forecasts that public debt will rise between now and 2027/28.

And between the last two years of the forecast, 2026/27 and 2027/28, the national debt will rise by £90bn.

When clarification [was sought by media outlets](#), it was suggested that the £53.7 billion figure refers to the change in the OBR's projection for headline debt in 2027/28 relative to the OBR's projection in the November 2022 Autumn Statement for that year – so the figure represents the gap between the two projections. This is not an accurate reflection of debt levels being reduced over time as claimed.

I am concerned that Government Ministers are using misleading statistics publicly regarding the economy, and believe it is critical that figures used are accurate.

I would welcome your view on the Government's claim that headline debt levels are falling in cash terms.

Sherlock House
6 Manor Road
Wallasey
CH45 4JB

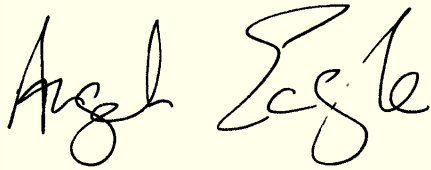
Telephone
Fax
Website
Email

0151 637 1979
0151 638 5861
www.facebook.com/angela4labour
angela.eagle.mp@parliament.uk

I would be grateful for your verification of these figures, and your advice on the Government, and its Ministers', continued use of them.

I look forward to your response.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Angela Eagle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Angela" is written with a large, stylized 'A' and 'E'. The second name "Eagle" is written with a large, stylized 'E' and 'A'.

Dame Angela Eagle MP