



**Public Administration
and Constitutional Affairs
Committee**

From the Chair
Simon Hoare MP

The Lord Livermore
Financial Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
Westminster
London SW1A 2HQ
Via email only

19 September 2025

Dear Lord Livermore,

PACAC inquiry into the work of the UK Statistics Authority

The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) is currently undertaking an inquiry into the work of the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA). As the committee responsible for overseeing the work of the UKSA on behalf of Parliament, we have considerable concerns about how effectively the UKSA and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have been operating. I am aware that my counterpart on the Treasury Committee, Dame Meg Hillier, copied into this correspondence, has drawn attention to and sought to drill down into the particular issues around economic statistics.

We recently heard from Professor Sir Ian Diamond, who stepped down as National Statistician in May.¹

Sir Ian reflected on the fact that different parts of government want the ONS to focus on the production of different statistics, but that the Treasury's desire and need for economic statistics is irrevocably bound up in the fact that the Treasury, unlike other government departments, is also responsible for the funding the ONS is allocated. Sir Ian told my committee that, in April, Treasury officials told him to "rein in and only produce economic statistics".²

We are interested therefore in understanding how decisions are made about the funding of statistical activity.

¹ [Oral evidence](#) taken by the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee on 9 September 2025 [Professor Sir Ian Diamond]

² Oral evidence taken by the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee on 9 September 2025, [Q228](#) [Professor Sir Ian Diamond]



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The Committee requests the following information, including papers as specified below, this being necessary for the Committee to undertake this inquiry:

- an overarching description of how HMT makes decisions about the funding allocated to the UKSA and the ONS, and whether this process differs from that used with other Departments;
- details in relation to when and who HMT meets to discuss the resourcing of ONS outputs;
- minutes of all meetings held with ONS about resourcing since 2021, which make reference to prioritisation; and
- minutes of all discussions held about the ‘ring-fencing’ of funds allocated to ONS since 2021.

We would appreciate it if this information could be returned by Monday 13 October.

Simon Hoare MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee