

PRESS RELEASE

Statistics Commission

11-19 Artillery Row
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STATISTICS COMMISSION WELCOMES INDEPENDENCE FOR STATISTICS

Welcoming the Chancellor's announcement of plans to introduce legislation to make the Office for National Statistics independent, Commission chairman, David Rhind said,

"This announcement heralds a real breakthrough in terms of statistical independence and we very much welcome it.

"The Statistics Commission hopes the promised legislation will be drawn widely and include an extension of the National Statistician's authority in relation to all official figures – including those for which she currently has little direct responsibility. We look forward to working with the Treasury and ONS on the details of the proposals."

/...ENDS.../

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Statistics Commission was set up in June 2000 to advise on the quality, quality assurance and priority setting for official statistics, and on the procedures designed to deliver statistical integrity, to help ensure official statistics are trustworthy and responsive to public needs. It is independent both of Ministers and of the producers of official statistics. More information about the Commission's role and work is on its website www.statscom.org.uk.
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The Statistics Commission is independent both of Ministers and of the producers of National Statistics. It operates openly and transparently, making its correspondence open to public scrutiny.