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

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Foreign Secretary  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

17 September 2017

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am surprised and disappointed that you have chosen to repeat the figure of £350 million per week, in connection with the amount that might be available for extra public spending when we leave the European Union.

This confuses gross and net contributions.<sup>1</sup> It also assumes that payments currently made to the UK by the EU, including for example for the support of agriculture and scientific research, will not be paid by the UK government when we leave.

It is a clear misuse of official statistics.

Yours sincerely



**Sir David Norgrove**

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<sup>1</sup> For further detail on official statistics relating to the UK's financial contributions to the EU, see [Sir Andrew Dilnot's letter of April 2016 to the Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP regarding UK contributions to the EU.](#)