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Sir David Norgrove
Chair
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Thank you for your letter, dated 16 July. We welcome the continued engagement of the Office for National Statistics, and the UK Statistics Authority, with our work.

To help inform our inquiry into the use of the retail price index, I write to ask for clarification on your statement that "the Retail Prices Index is not a good measure of inflation, does not have the potential to become one, and we strongly discourage its use".

Can you explain why the retail price index does not have the potential to become a good measure of inflation? What specific evidence is there, and what work has the UK Statistics Authority undertaken, to establish and demonstrate that the retail price index is beyond repair?

I would be grateful for a response to these questions by 1 October.

Lord Forsyth of Drumlean
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee