
John Pullinger CB CStat | National Statistician

By email only

2 November 2018

Dear Steve

Thank you for your letter of 8 October setting out concerns that RSS Fellows have about how the consumer prices advisory panels are operating.

Whilst I consider a wide range of information when forming my own view on the often complex and contested issues, these panels are an important element and I want them to work well. For my part, I have appreciated the advice they have given and am grateful to the chairs, members and secretariats for all the work they have put in to support me.

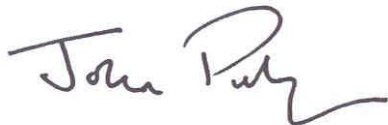
It is nonetheless concerning to me that you have raised the points you have. I think your detailed points each provide an illustration of the overarching request, which is about the breadth of the current membership. I have sought from the outset to get diversity of expertise and interest on the advisory panels, and have refreshed the membership from time to time to ensure a good mix. I can therefore readily agree to your request to consider additional people who could add value to the work of the panels and the support they give me. I will also discuss your letter with the panel chairs so we can consider whether there are other actions we should take to ensure they provide me the best possible advice.

I would, of course, be happy to meet to discuss these matters if you would find that useful.

I am copying, as you did, to Sir David Norgrove and Dame Kate Barker.

Best wishes

John



John Pullinger