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Thank you for your letter of 2 February in relation to the use of the heading 'abuse of children through prostitution' in the statistical release published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 21 January 2016.

I am determined to doing everything possible to protect vulnerable children from sexual abuse and exploitation, and I am in complete agreement with you that the language used in relation to these awful crimes must reflect their true nature. I, therefore, welcome you writing to me about your concerns regarding the continued reference to the term 'child prostitution' in the crime statistics.

Following the amendments made through the Serious Crime Act 2015 to remove references to the term 'child prostitution' from the Sexual Offences Act 2003, the Home Office implemented changes to the language used in the Home Office Counting Rules. Unfortunately, these changes had not been captured and reflected in the published statistics due to a communication breakdown.

I have raised this matter with the ONS, and have been assured that the relevant table heading will be changed to reflect the new language. The heading 'abuse of children through prostitution' will rightly become 'abuse of children through sexual exploitation'. I am also assured by the ONS that this change will be reflected in the table which appears in next crime statistics release, due on 21 April 2016, and that the tables published in both January this year and October last year are being amended.

I would like to thank you once again for the support you showed to the Government in removing the term 'child prostitution' from the Sexual Offences Act 2003. I hope this letter reassures you of our continued commitment to this change in language and the removal of the term 'child prostitution' from all Government documents and publications.

I am copying this letter to the National Statistician.

Karen Bradley MP