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**John Pullinger CB CStat** | National Statistician

The Lord Triesman  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

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Dear Lord Triesman,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question asking her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the average per capita contribution to GDP in each of the last five years, broken down by electoral division in the 23 June 2016 referendum (**HL6190**).

We do not produce regional estimates of GDP, but we do produce estimates of regional Gross Value Added (GVA), which is a comparable measure of economic performance. GVA measured using the income approach (which involves adding up all the income earned by individuals or corporations in the production of goods and services) is available at current basic prices for countries, regions, sub-regions and local areas of the UK.

The 2016 referendum was carried out in 382 voting areas, corresponding to local authority districts of England, local council areas of Wales and Scotland, and with single areas for Northern Ireland and Gibraltar. Results were counted and reported for 12 regions of the UK, with Gibraltar being included with the South West England results.

The latest published estimates of regional GVA include results for those 12 regions (excluding Gibraltar), along with estimates for smaller areas. They do not, however, include estimates for local authority districts or local council areas. We plan to publish estimates for these areas at the end of March 2017, under publication title *Regional GVA(I) by local authority in the UK 1997 to 2015*.

Table 1 below contains the GVA per capita estimates for the latest five years for the 12 regions for which referendum results were reported.

**Table 1: Average GVA per capita for the 12 regions of the UK, 2011 to 2015 (£ sterling)**

<b>Region</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
North East England	16,939	17,335	17,758	18,413	18,927
North West England	19,236	19,747	20,585	21,223	21,867
Yorkshire & The Humber	18,708	19,023	19,504	19,878	20,351
East Midlands	18,900	19,326	20,015	20,732	20,929
West Midlands	18,549	19,141	19,707	20,504	20,826
East of England	21,303	21,747	22,621	23,562	23,970
London	38,464	39,567	40,441	42,939	43,629
South East England	24,598	25,509	26,287	27,214	27,847
South West England	20,657	21,060	21,680	22,579	23,031
Wales	16,257	16,760	17,252	17,517	18,002
Scotland	20,976	21,333	22,250	23,267	23,685
Northern Ireland	17,300	17,634	18,099	18,331	18,584

Source: *Regional GVA (Income Approach) statistical bulletin published in December 2016*<sup>1</sup>

Please note that GVA per capita relates the value added by production activity in a region to the resident population of that region, and it can therefore be subject to distortion due to the effects of commuting and variations in the age distribution of the population. At the regional level, shown in the table above, these effects are really only significant for London. However, smaller areas, such as local authorities, can be subject to very large distortions, and this should be borne in mind when interpreting the statistics as an indicator of relative economic prosperity.

For example, the City of London has a very small resident population, but has a very high GVA generated by workers commuting into the area. At the other end of the scale, areas such as the Isle of Anglesey are affected by large numbers of people commuting out of the area to work elsewhere.

Yours sincerely



**John Pullinger**

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/bulletins/regionalgrossvalueaddedincomeapproach/december2016>