

Note Verbale No: EUD MED/010/16

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Italy and has the honour to refer to its Note Verbale (No. 1790) of 11 October 2016 and transmit the attached letter on behalf of the official statistical community of the United Kingdom.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office thanks the Italian Embassy for highlighting the historic administrative error in the language codes issued by Her Majesty's Government. It is grateful for the Italian Embassy's close cooperation as it established how the error occurred.

The Department for Education has now corrected the language codes and, together with the Government Statistical Service, will ensure this issue is brought to the attention of the statistical community across Her Majesty's Government and colleagues working in the Northern Ireland Executive, and the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Government of the Italian Republic the assurances of its highest consideration.

Europe Directorate  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London

15 October 2016



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His Excellency Pasquale Terracciano  
Ambassador of Italy to the United Kingdom  
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14 October 2016

Excellency,

We are writing on behalf of the official statistical community in the United Kingdom and the Department for Education to offer our apologies for any offence that may have been caused to the Italian people by the way in which the issue of the Italian language was dealt with in a recent data collection exercise by the Department for Education statisticians.

Statisticians across government regularly collect information on language. We are mindful that this is a sensitive area, and endeavour to ensure that we collect that information in a respectful way. On this occasion, we have failed to do so.

We will ensure this issue is brought to the attention of the statistical community across the United Kingdom Government and colleagues working in the Northern Ireland Executive, and the Scottish and Welsh Governments so it does not happen again.



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