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**Professor Sir Ian Diamond** | National StatisticianAngela Rayner MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

29 January 2020

Dear Ms Rayner,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking for the proportion of families with (a) three year old and (b) four year old children that have (i) all parents in work and (ii) one or more parents not in work **(8316)**.

Table 1 presents the employment status of families in the UK with dependent children, by family type (couple families and lone parent families) and age of the youngest dependent child living with them. It should be noted that:

- The analysis covers families where all parents are aged between 16 and 64 and live in the UK.
- Dependent children are defined as children aged under 16 and those aged 16-18 who have never married and are in full-time education.
- These statistics relate to families where the youngest child is either aged 3 or 4 years to allow for employment outcomes to be produced for distinct populations.

Estimates of employment are calculated from data gathered in the Labour Force Survey (LFS), a survey of people resident in households. The LFS categorises women on maternity leave and on a career break as in employment. In addition, couple families include those who are married, cohabiting or in a same-sex marriage.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces statistics on Families and the Labour Market<sup>1</sup> which includes information of men and women with dependent children and their employment status as well their employment activity, which might be of interest to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor Sir Ian Diamond**

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/familiesandthelabourmarketengland/2019>

**Table 1: Employment status of families<sup>2</sup> living with dependent children<sup>3</sup> by family type<sup>4</sup> and age of youngest dependent child, April to June 2019, UK<sup>5,6,7</sup>**

				%	
	Couple families			Lone parent families	
	Both parents employed	One parent employed	Both parents not employed	Employed	Not employed
<b>All families with dependent children</b>	73.2	23.4	3.5	69.9	30.1
<b>Age of youngest dependent child</b>					
3	73.5	23.8	2.8	50.3	49.7
4	73.5	23.2	3.3	66.7	33.3

Source: ONS – Labour Force Survey

<sup>2</sup> The analysis covers families where both parents are aged between 16 and 64 and live in the UK.

<sup>3</sup> Dependent children are children aged under 16 years and those aged 16 to 18 years who have never married and are in full-time education.

<sup>4</sup> Couple families include those who are married, cohabiting or in a same-sex marriage.

<sup>5</sup> The Labour Force Survey categorises women on maternity leave and on a career break as in employment.

<sup>6</sup> Totals in this table may not sum as estimates have undergone rounding.

<sup>7</sup> Cells shaded in grey indicate that the data are based on reasonably low sample sizes. These estimates may not be as reliable, and should therefore be used with caution.