

Access Limited to [REDACTED]

Title: FOI 2457 - [REDACTED]

Categorisation  
990 Miscellaneous

Originator: Will Laffan/LONDON/ONS on 27/03/2014  
Editors: [REDACTED]  
Status: Default  
Last Modified: 25/09/2015 11:18:56 by [REDACTED]

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## Mail 3

From: [REDACTED]/NEWPORT/ONS  
To: [REDACTED]  
CC: [REDACTED]  
Date Sent: 03/09/2014 09:44:14  
Subject: Re: FF heads up  
Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for this, John is at the RSS Conference in Sheffield at the moment and I'll make sure he sees it on his return. [REDACTED] has already been in touch and I'm sure John won't mind responding at all.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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UK Statistics Authority | Office of the Board and Chief Executive (OBC) | [REDACTED]

Web: [REDACTED]

[www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk) | Twitter: [@UKStatsAuth](https://twitter.com/UKStatsAuth)

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[REDACTED] Dear John I hope this finds you well. A couple of h...

03/09/2014 08:11:12

From: [REDACTED]  
To: National Statistician@ONS,  
Date: 03/09/2014 08:11  
Subject: FF heads up

Dear John

I hope this finds you well. A couple of heads up, and a question as to whether you're content for us to submit your letter of support as evidence to the Charity Tribunal should that become necessary.

### 1. Europe

[REDACTED] will be contacting you shortly (may have already) to ask what you think of us. When she asked me what you'd say, I said there is nobody independent I'd rather she asked, I hope you won't mind.

The context is that we are currently instigating a three-year project on Europe with a view to a possible referendum in 2017. At the moment we're in a discovery and fundraising phase talking to key groups in the debate, hence the connection.

As it's a three-year project, one of the areas we're interested in is filling information gaps in this debate, and that's an area that you might well be interested in. We're already working with the ESRC as they prepare to approve a £5m research programme on this area.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Many thanks and best wishes

[Redacted]

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## Mail 6

From : Will Laffan/LONDON/ONS

To : [REDACTED]

CC :

Date Sent : 08/09/2014 11:31:58

Subject : [Re: FF heads up](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope things at Full Fact are going well. We've had a chance to run your request past John now and he is happy for you to use his earlier letter. You might also want to know that we've responded to [REDACTED] (suffice to say, nothing bad).

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED] | Office of the Board and Chief Executive (OBC) | UK Statistics Authority

[REDACTED] | Web: [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk) | Twitter: [@UKStatsAuth](https://twitter.com/UKStatsAuth)

Hi [REDACTED] I've since realised that it was actually No...

06/09/2014 17:03:01

From: [REDACTED]  
To: National Statistician@ONS  
Date: 06/09/2014 17:03  
Subject: Re: FF heads up

---

Hi [REDACTED]

I've since realised that it was actually Nov 2012 when John provided his letter of reference, in case that matters other than to be depressing for me. He might also find it useful to know that Andrew said yes to the same request.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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On 3 September 2014 09:50, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks very much — I should have guessed that.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Full Fact**

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[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) • [LinkedIn](#)

On 3 September 2014 09:44, National Statistician <

[REDACTED] > wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for this, John is at the RSS Conference in Sheffield at the moment and I'll make sure he sees it on his return. [REDACTED] has already been in touch and I'm sure John won't mind responding at all.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]  
UK Statistics Authority | Office of the Board and Chief Executive (OBC) | [Redacted]

[Redacted] Web:

[www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk) Twitter: [@UKStatsAuth](https://twitter.com/UKStatsAuth)

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## Mail 7

From : [REDACTED]  
To : National Statistician  
CC :  
Date Sent : 25/09/2014 18:40:09  
Subject : Full Fact

Dear John

I have heard in the past few minutes that Full Fact has finally been registered as a charity and I wanted you and your fellow reference-providers to be the first to know.

Many thanks indeed for all your support. We have great plans for the future and, thanks to your support, we're now better-placed than ever to achieve them.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Full Fact**

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From : john.pullinger [REDACTED]  
To : National Statistician  
CC :  
Date Sent : 29/09/2014 09:23:31  
Subject : Re: Full Fact

Please respond

Dear [REDACTED]

Congratulations. This is a wonderful milestone for you and all at Full Fact. I am looking forward to continuing to develop our relationship over the years ahead.

Best wishes

John

Sent from my iPad

On 26 Sep 2014, at 17:44, "National Statistician" [REDACTED]

> wrote:

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] /LONDON/ONS on 26/09/2014 17:44 -----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: National Statistician@ONS,  
Date: 25/09/2014 18:40  
Subject: Full Fact

---

Dear John

I have heard in the past few minutes that Full Fact has finally been registered as a charity and I wanted you and your fellow reference-providers to be the first to know.

Many thanks indeed for all your support. We have great plans for the future and, thanks to



your support, we're now better-placed than ever to achieve them.

Best wishes



**Full Fact**

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For the latest data on the economy and society, consult National Statistics at <http://www.ons.gov.uk>

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## Mail 12

From : [REDACTED]  
To : [REDACTED]/LONDON/ONS, National Statistician  
CC :  
Date Sent : 22/10/2014 10:06:20  
Subject : Meeting with [REDACTED] Full Fact and John Pullinger 17th Nov

Dear [REDACTED],

Will has requested to add an item to the agenda for his meeting with John Pullinger on Monday 17th November:

- He'd like to discuss the UKSA/ONS response to PASC's recommendation about a five star open statistics rating system (number 17 [here](#)).

He's also asked if I can come to the meeting too, if that's ok with John?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### Full Fact

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----- Forwarded by Will Laffan/LONDON/ONS on 22/10/2014 11:17 -----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]/LONDON/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS,  
Date: 22/10/2014 10:06  
Subject: Meeting with [REDACTED] Full Fact and John Pullinger 17th Nov

Dear [REDACTED],

Will has requested to add an item to the agenda for his meeting with John Pullinger on Monday 17th November:

- He'd like to discuss the UKSA/ONS response to PASC's recommendation about a five star open statistics rating system (number 17 [here](#)).

He's also asked if I can come to the meeting too, if that's ok with John?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## **Mail 14**

From : [REDACTED]/LONDON/ONS

To : [REDACTED]

CC :

Date Sent : 23/10/2014 17:03:33

Subject : Re: [Meeting with \[REDACTED\] Full Fact and John Pullinger 17th Nov](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email.

I will inform John you will be attending the meeting.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

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phoebe	Dear Vanessa, Will has requested to add an item...	22/10/2014 10:06:20
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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]/LONDON/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS,  
Date: 22/10/2014 10:06  
Subject: Meeting with [REDACTED] Full Fact and John Pullinger 17th Nov

---

Dear [REDACTED]

Will has requested to add an item to the agenda for his meeting with John Pullinger on Monday 17th November:

- He'd like to discuss the UKSA/ONS response to PASC's recommendation about a five star open statistics rating system (number 17 [here](#)).

He's also asked if I can come to the meeting too, if that's ok with John?

Best wishes

Phoebe

--

[REDACTED]

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## Mail 15

From : [REDACTED]

To : National Statistician

CC :

Date Sent : 23/10/2014 17:06:30

Subject : Re: Meeting with [REDACTED] Full Fact and John Pullinger 17th Nov

Thank you.

Best wishes

Phoebe

On 23 October 2014 17:03, National Statistician <[national.statistician@statistics.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:national.statistician@statistics.gsi.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email.

I will inform John you will be attending the meeting.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]/LONDON/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS,  
Date: 22/10/2014 10:06  
Subject: Meeting with [REDACTED] Full Fact and John Pullinger 17th Nov

---

Dear [REDACTED]

Will has requested to add an item to the agenda for his meeting with John Pullinger on Monday 17th November:

- He'd like to discuss the UKSA/ONS response to PASC's recommendation about a five star open statistics rating system (number 17 [here](#)).

He's also asked if I can come to the meeting too, if that's ok with John?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:**   
**Sent:** 19/03/2015 18:40 GMT  
**To:** Ross Young  
**Subject:** Re: CS code etc

Thanks



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On 19 March 2015 at 17:33, Ross Young [REDACTED] wrote:

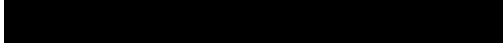


I haven't been able to speak to key people here this afternoon, so I will continue to explore tomorrow and come back to you.

All best,

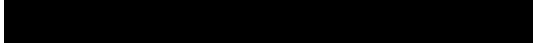
Ross

Ross Young



, Chair of the UK Statistics

Authority



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For information on the work of the UK Statistics Authority, visit:

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[REDACTED], Full Fact  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

28 April 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

## **ANALYSIS OF IMPACT OF TAX AND WELFARE CHANGES**

You recently raised with me a concern that you had been unable to locate in the public domain the statistics and related analysis underpinning a Conservative Party press release published on or around 6 April 2015 to enable you to check claims made in that press release about the “impact of tax and welfare changes” on households. We have been unable ourselves to locate the Conservative Party press release online. The text of the press release is reproduced in the accompanying Annex, and we note that a number of media outlets reported it at the time.

We have been told that the analysis in the Conservative Party press release was prepared by HM Treasury officials for Ministers ahead of Dissolution of Parliament, and officials advised that, were the analysis to be used publicly, arrangements needed to be put in place to ensure its publication prior to the Dissolution. In the event, that advice does not appear to have been followed. Reference to the analysis was made in the Conservative Party press release, but the analysis has not been published and is neither available to all other parties nor to members of the public. We regard this as unsatisfactory because of the significance that we attach to the principle of equal access to statistics and underlying analysis.

The data and analysis underpinning the Conservative Party press release is not an official statistics publication, and therefore it does not fall under the remit of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice sets high standards, especially in relation to equality of access to data and analysis, and the importance of providing information about quality and reliability. Voluntary adherence to the spirit and the high standards of the Code of Practice when publishing numerical analysis not currently designated as official statistics can be beneficial in these and other areas, and we regard the handling of the release of these statistics and analysis in a press release as contrary to the spirit of the Code.

Yours sincerely

**Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE**



Ross Young

[REDACTED], Chair of the UK Statistics Authority

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 29/04/2015 17:48 CET

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Andrew Dilnot; Ross Young; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Sir Andrew Dilnot letter

Dear Sir Nicholas,

Please find attached a letter from [REDACTED], Director of Full Fact, concerning the non-publication of Treasury analysis used by the Conservative Party during the campaign.

We would be grateful if you would give it your urgent attention.

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Full Fact**

[fullfact.org](http://fullfact.org)

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Till the election, find us at:

[REDACTED]

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- Letter from Full Fact to [REDACTED].pdf

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**Mail 34**

**From :** [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]  
CC:  
Date Sent : 04/05/2015 18:07:10  
Subject : [General Election Factcheck 2015: A guide for voters and journalists](#)  
**sent to iPad**

Dear all

## **The election has been factchecked.**

Full Fact's [General Election Report](#) is genuinely ground-breaking in offering both a view from Full Fact's election centre, which has been factchecking the election campaign from 6am until midnight every day of the campaign, and in making available independent analysis from some of the country's leading research organisations.

Politics is what you do with the facts: your priorities, your principles, your appetite for risk. We offer our General Election Report as a guide to the clashes between the manifestos; the real and apparent contradictions. It is also a toolbox of information to help voters navigate through the hazards of political claims that we have spotted during the election, with concrete examples of why they matter.

## **Unanswered questions**

Significant questions remain than factchecking alone can answer: that's one reason why we asked for contributions from organisations with deep subject expertise. And it's astonishing that some of these vital questions remain unanswered.

On the economy, the Institute for Fiscal Studies describes voters as "in the dark". Perhaps this is the last election when that is the case if the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) does begin full costings of parties' manifestos.

One of the biggest issue for people deciding how to vote is the NHS. In our report, the Nuffield Trust sets out three unanswered questions on the parties' NHS funding pledges.

On housing, England will have 220,000 extra households every year between 2012 and 2022 according to official projections. Manifesto commitments for house building fall short of that number, let alone providing extra homes for existing households.

What goes unsaid could matter just as much as the statements actually made. While ambitions for education often focus on international economic competitiveness in terms of young people's skills, the National Foundation for Educational Research points out that if we want a competitive workforce, international evidence shows we need to focus on adults acquiring skills throughout their lives too.

Finally, the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford reminds us that many of these policies target an uncertain world. Even clear aims and election promises may not always be successfully delivered in reality.

Voters, experts, and the media should all be concerned that we do not yet know what we are voting for—and take the next few days to pursue more credible answers to some of these concerns.

## **Can we trust politicians?**

Not everything we factcheck is inaccurate and outright cynicism does not appear well founded. In carrying out our work we publish what we find either way and we've spotted instances of all three main parties taking care to avoid repeating errors they have previously made.

A factchecker's experience is that a cockup is at least as useful an explanation as conspiracy for the inaccurate things politicians say. One of the problems Full Fact therefore exists to help solve is how difficult it is for most of us to distinguish what we can rely on from what we cannot.

Nevertheless, the public's belief that politicians cannot generally be trusted to tell the truth is both unshakeable and rational. Enough of what the manifestos and the campaigns have said is not accurate—or cannot be taken at face value—that it makes sense to be sceptical of any individual claim.

We have seen, for example:

- Cherry picking of living standards statistics ('Manifesto clash: living standards')
- Spurious certainty about the performance of free schools ('Manifesto clash: free schools')
- All three parties blaming one government or another for decades of under-provision of housing ('Manifesto clash: recent house building')
- Claims of an "epidemic" in zero hours contracts under this government, when you can't compare the figures over time
- Negative comparisons of children's SAT results from the last Labour government to now when the assessments have changed (both at: '5 Election Claim Pitfalls: Facing the music')

Most concerningly, we have identified a number of examples of political parties making important claims based on publicly-funded research and analysis without making that analysis public.

## **Scope of our report**

Our General Election Report does not try to assess a random or even representative sample of political claims and does not seek to compare accuracy between parties or individuals. Based on our experience during this election we are studying what would be required to do this.

With the resources we have, we have chosen to focus on the three main parties in our report—the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats. For consistency we asked our external contributors to do the same. Other political parties are available, and of course you vote for an individual candidate rather than a political party.

The topics we have chosen to focus on are derived from Ipsos MORI's invaluable Issues Index, in particular their research into the issues that people say will most affect their vote.

## **What's next**

Statistics Norway—one inspiration for our election work—has taken a concerted approach to

supporting democratic debate at election time by publishing briefings on topical issues. The appetite among the media and the public for neutral information produced by experts is growing and we are excited about supporting statisticians deploying themselves to cope with this trend, and our report sets out in more detail how this demand can be met.

For Full Fact ourselves, our short term aims are to develop even stronger links with a wider range of expert organisations for the next election, to deploy new processes and technologies that allow us to increase the speed and volume of our work significantly, and, when our resources allow, to extend our reach from the national campaigns into the local battles of marginal constituencies.

I am very grateful to our exceptional team for the work that went into our report and to all those, including funders and those who have contributed content, into making our report possible.

Get the report [here](#) or [on our website](#).

Best wishes



**Full Fact**  
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Till the election, find us at:



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----- Forwarded by Emily Greenslade/NEWPORT/ONS on 05/05/2015 08:56 -----

From:   
To:   
Date: 04/05/2015 18:07  
Subject: General Election Factcheck 2015: A guide for voters and journalists

Dear all

**The election has been factchecked.**

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6am until midnight every day of the campaign, and in making available independent analysis from some of the country's leading research organisations.

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One of the biggest issue for people deciding how to vote is the NHS. In our report, the Nuffield Trust sets out three unanswered questions on the parties' NHS funding pledges.

On housing, England will have 220,000 extra households every year between 2012 and 2022 according to official projections. Manifesto commitments for house building fall short of that number, let alone providing extra homes for existing households.

What goes unsaid could matter just as much as the statements actually made. While ambitions for education often focus on international economic competitiveness in terms of young people's skills, the National Foundation for Educational Research points out that if we want a competitive workforce, international evidence shows we need to focus on adults acquiring skills throughout their lives too.

Finally, the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford reminds us that many of these policies target an uncertain world. Even clear aims and election promises may not always be successfully delivered in reality.

Voters, experts, and the media should all be concerned that we do not yet know what we are voting for—and take the next few days to pursue more credible answers to some of these concerns.

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help solve is how difficult it is for most of us to distinguish what we can rely on from what we cannot.

Nevertheless, the public's belief that politicians cannot generally be trusted to tell the truth is both unshakeable and rational. Enough of what the manifestos and the campaigns have said is not accurate—or cannot be taken at face value—that it makes sense to be sceptical of any individual claim.

We have seen, for example:

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- Spurious certainty about the performance of free schools ('Manifesto clash: free schools')
- All three parties blaming one government or another for decades of under-provision of housing ('Manifesto clash: recent house building')
- Claims of an "epidemic" in zero hours contracts under this government, when you can't compare the figures over time
- Negative comparisons of children's SAT results from the last Labour government to now when the assessments have changed (both at: '5 Election Claim Pitfalls: Facing the music')

Most concerningly, we have identified a number of examples of political parties making important claims based on publicly-funded research and analysis without making that analysis public.

### **Scope of our report**

Our General Election Report does not try to assess a random or even representative sample of political claims and does not seek to compare accuracy between parties or individuals. Based on our experience during this election we are studying what would be required to do this.

With the resources we have, we have chosen to focus on the three main parties in our report—the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats. For consistency we asked our external contributors to do the same. Other political parties are available, and of course you vote for an individual candidate rather than a political party.

The topics we have chosen to focus on are derived from Ipsos MORI's invaluable Issues Index, in particular their research into the issues that people say will most affect their vote.

### **What's next**

Statistics Norway—one inspiration for our election work—has taken a concerted approach to supporting democratic debate at election time by publishing briefings on topical issues. The appetite among the media and the public for neutral information produced by experts is growing and we are excited about supporting statisticians deploying themselves to cope with this trend, and our report sets out in more detail how this demand can be met.

For Full Fact ourselves, our short term aims are to develop even stronger links with a wider range of expert organisations for the next election, to deploy new processes and technologies that allow us to increase the speed and volume of our work significantly, and, when our resources allow, to extend our reach from the national campaigns into the local battles of

marginal constituencies.

I am very grateful to our exceptional team for the work that went into our report and to all those, including funders and those who have contributed content, into making our report possible.

Get the report [here](#) or [on our website](#).

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Full Fact**  
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[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) • [LinkedIn](#)

Till the election, find us at:

[REDACTED]

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## Mail 38

From : [REDACTED]  
To : National Statistician  
CC :  
Date Sent : 29/07/2015 00:06:44  
Subject : Fwd: Open Statistics - [REDACTED] project  
**RB (email) for info**

Hi John

Good to catch up this evening.

This is the Full Fact project I mentioned. Incidentally, [REDACTED] is a Titchfield AS on one of our GSS secondments.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 24 July 2015 14:11:13 BST

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Open Statistics - [REDACTED] project

Hi all

[REDACTED] is working on a project to create an open standard for sharing the bits of statistics that aren't numbers: the caveats, context, and explanations you need to use the numbers.

She blogged about it today:

[https://fullfact.org/open\\_data\\_caveats\\_royal\\_baby\\_names-46718](https://fullfact.org/open_data_caveats_royal_baby_names-46718), and please do share this with anyone you think might be interested.

We've applied for this to become an Open Data Institute Open Data Summer Showcase project (worth £7,000 + collaboration and exposure). The application, attached, explains the project in more detail so I thought I'd share it internally for anyone who might be interested. (Saved in S:\Projects\STATISTICS\Open Statistics)

We will find out on 7 Aug if it was selected. Thanks to [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] for clear and quick comments on the application.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Last Modified : 25/09/2015 11:18:56 by [REDACTED]