

Richard Hughes
Chair, Office for Budget Responsibility
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

By email

18 October 2023

Office for Budget Responsibility request for pre-release access to ONS statistics

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2023 seeking exceptional pre-release for Labour Market statistics to support the work of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).

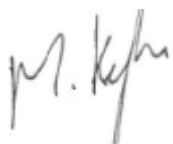
As you will be aware, when the then National Statistician announced an end to pre-release access to ONS statistics he said that 'Should there be a need for exceptional pre-release access to particular individuals for a specific release this would be fully transparent'. The overarching principle behind these arrangements is that we should work to ensure the integrity of our statistics but also recognise that in exceptional circumstances, the public benefit likely to result from limited pre-release access significantly outweighs the detriment to public trust in official statistics likely to result from such access.

On that basis, and having discussed this with the National Statistician, ONS grants you exceptional pre-release access, as requested, for the purposes of preparing your draft economic and fiscal forecasts for the Chancellor. To be specific:

- ONS will grant you pre-release access to the following datasets:
 - A01 – summary of Labour market statistics
 - LFS Monthly outputs
- These will be published at 07:00 on the 24 October.
- We will make these datasets available to you from 13:00 on Thursday 19 October.
- We understand that you will limit the number of individuals who will have access to the data covered by this arrangement. Before access is granted, we ask that you supply to us the names and the positions of those who will have pre-release access, both for the purposes of producing and quality assuring your forecast.

I trust that these arrangements will prove satisfactory, but if you have any further questions or concerns, please come back to me.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Keoghan

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic, Social and Environmental Statistics Group | Office for National Statistics

