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By email

24 November 2020

Bank of England's request for pre-release access to ONS statistics in 2020 - amendment to CPI and Labour Market data request - December 2020

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter of 18 November seeking an amendment to CPI and Labour Market data exceptional pre-release for December 2020.

As outlined in previous letters, 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 being that an exceptional circumstance is where the public benefit likely to result from such 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, the ONS grants you exceptional pre-release access, as requested, for the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings for the following statistics:

The Consumer Price Index releases that fall on the:

1. 16th December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 09.30am on Monday 14th December (previously 10.00).

The Labour Market Statistics releases that fall on the:

1. 15th December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 09.30am on Monday 14th December (previously 10.00).

We will send you the requested statistics 60 minutes prior to the start of the MPC meeting in question (previously 30 minutes) so at 8.30am on 14th December.

Ahead of any pre-release access, the ONS will require the names of any and all individuals who will

be accessing data ahead of publication.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Athow', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jonathan Athow

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