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[by email]

3rd May 2018

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter of 2nd May seeking exceptional pre-release for a number of economic statistics to support the work of the Bank of England.

As I have previously outlined, when the 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 someone would need to act or make a decision in the public interest on the basis of the statistics. Not granting pre-release in such a case runs the risk of decisions being made on the basis of out of date information.

On that basis, and having discussed this with the National Statistician, we are happy to grant you pre-release access as requested for the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting covering two separate statistical articles from 12 noon on Thursday 3 May. The articles, both due for publication on Tuesday 8 May at 09:30am, are:

1. National Accounts articles: Impact on GDP current price and chained volume measure annual and quarterly estimates: 1997 to 2016
2. National Accounts articles: UK Trade data impact assessment from new developments 1998 to 2016

Ahead of any pre-release access, ONS would require the names of any and all individuals who will be accessing data ahead of publication. I should also make the caveat that, although unlikely, figures may change in the final publications.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Athow

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