

Ben Broadbent
Governor, Bank of England
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By email

6 December 2023

**Bank of England's request for pre-release access to ONS statistics:
amendment to GDP and Labour Market data request - December 2023**

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2023 seeking an amendment to the exceptional pre-release for Decembers official Labour Market statistics to support MPC's monetary policy decisions.

We understand this request is in light of ONS' data release timetable and a change of timings of the MPC's meeting due to take place at 09:00 on Monday 11 December 2023.

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, ahead of the scheduled Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, for the following statistics:

- Labour Market Statistics
- The Earnings and Employment data from the PAYE time information
- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data
- We will make these datasets available to you from 08:00 on 11 December.
- 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Keoghan', written in a cursive style.

Michael Keoghan

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