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By email only

01 June 2022

Bank of England's request for pre-release access to ONS statistics in 2022

Dear Ben,

Following correspondence in March of this year, thank you for your updated letter of 20 May 2022 seeking an amendment to the requests for exceptional pre-release for economic statistics to support the work of the Bank of England and the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), following a slight change to the start time of the MPC meeting on Friday 10th June.

As outlined in my previous letter, 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, in March 2022 the ONS granted you exceptional pre-release access, as requested, for the Friday 10th June Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting for the following statistics:

The Labour Market Statistics releases that fall on the:

1. 14th June with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 14:30 on Friday 10th June.

The Gross Domestic Product releases that fall on the:

1. 13th June with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 14:30 on Friday 10th June.

As confirmed in your letter dated 20 May 2022, the MPC's meeting on Friday 10th June will now be held at **10:30** instead of 14:30. I can confirm that we are able to make the agreed data available for this earlier start time, and that we will send you the requested statistics 60 minutes prior to the start of the MPC meeting in question.

We will have further discussions as to exactly what level of detail we provide closer to the time and make the caveat that, although unlikely, figures may change in the final publications.

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.

I am copying this letter to Sean Whellams and Jane Whittaker (HMRC) and Alan Castle and Simon Kirby (Bank of England).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Keohan'.

Michael Keohan

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