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Bank of England
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London
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By email only

28th February 2023

Bank of England's request for pre-release access to ONS statistics in 2023

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter of 23rd February 2023 seeking exceptional pre-release for economic statistics to support the work of the Bank of England and the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

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. 22nd March with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 09:30 on Monday 20th March.
2. 21st June with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 10:00 on Monday 19th June.
3. 20th September with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 10:00 on Monday 18th September.

The Labour Market Statistics releases that fall on the:

1. 12th December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 10:00 on Monday 11th December.

The Gross Domestic Product releases that fall on the:

1. 13th December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 10:00 on Monday 11th December.

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.

We will send you the requested statistics 60 minutes prior to the start of the MPC meeting in question.

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', written in a cursive style.

Michael Keohan

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