

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 22 December 2015 14:28
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Housing associations

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the update - it might well have been the non-legislative package that they were referring to.

If anything else develops could you keep me and John in the loop. As John will see [REDACTED] on the regular basis, good to make sure he is up to speed. My fear here is that CLG believe they have the answer to whatever they are trying to achieve only for us to come in late in the day and them to have misread or misunderstood us or the guidance.

Merry Christmas!

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

'phone: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 December 2015 14:12
To: Athow, Jonathan [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@notes.ons.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Housing associations

Hi Jonathan,

We looked at their proposed legislative changes in November and advised that if they made the changes as described the regulation would not be a source of control but since they have been being pushed to do something different by a group of Lib Dem Lords and we have declined their invitation to provide real-time feedback on legislative drafts as this is not something we could do without directly shaping policy choices, thus prejudicing our ability to make an independent assessment of the end result (nevermind the resource implications).

They have now submitted a new 'non legislative' proposal which we have committed to provide a view on by the end of January. I will be beginning work on the assessment ASAP. I am not sure this is the same as what they were talking about though.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 21 December 2015 11:54
To: [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@notes.ons.gov.uk>
Subject: Housing associations

■

I gather than John bumped into the Perm Sec of DCLG last week, and that DCLG are very confident that the new clauses they are introducing/have introduced will be sufficient to get HAs into the private sector.

I was wondering if we had a view on whether these clauses are sufficient? The reason I ask is that if they are not likely to do the trick, it would be good to be prepared.

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

■ Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: ■ ons.gov.uk | 'phone: ■

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 22 December 2015 10:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Official Sensitive: NEW STATISTICS - Public Sector Finances - November 2015
Attachments: PSF briefing tables Nov2015.pdf; PSF Briefing November 2015.pdf; supplementary Tables November 2015.pdf; PSF SB Final.pdf

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

'phone: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:[REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 22 December 2015 09:37
To: EST.Action@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; Action.CST@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; EconomicRisksGroup@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; MFPFSP@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; fiscalriskgroup@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; Action.FST@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@obr.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; Macroeconomicstatisticsbriefing@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@flex-r.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@obr.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; BTWDirectors@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; action.xst@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@obr.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@obr.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@bankofengland.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: Official Sensitive: NEW STATISTICS - Public Sector Finances - November 2015

All,

Please find attached the PSF Bulletin, PSF briefing and supplementary material.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

Restricted Statistics under National Statistics Code of Practice until 9:30am 22 December 2015

You are reminded that this is market sensitive information to which you have privileged access in advance of release. You must not share this information outside the pre-release list as determined by the recipients of this e-mail. Attempting to profit from this information, or encouraging others to do so, could constitute market abuse and lead to criminal prosecution. Any accidental or wrongful release should be reported immediately and may lead to an inquiry. Wrongful release includes indications of the content, including descriptions such as “favourable” or “unfavourable”. Please prevent inappropriate use by treating this information as “OFFICIAL – MARKET SENSITIVE”.

Public Sector Finances Briefing

Analysts:

██████████ (x6449)

██████████ (x1288)

New Statistics

Public Sector Finances
November 2015

November 2015 Outturn	Bloomberg Consensus	November 2014 Outturn
£14.2 bn	£11.8 bn	£12.9 bn

PSNB ex is £14.2 bn, £1.3bn higher than last November and above market expectations.

November				
	2015 (£bn)	2014 (£bn)	Change (£bn)	Change (%)
Key Fiscal Aggregates				
Current Budget Deficit	11.2	10.7	0.5	5.0
PSNB ex	14.2	12.9	1.3	10.1
PSND ex (% GDP)	80.5	79.7	0.8	
Central government Aggregates				
Receipts	46.3	45.9	0.5	1.1
Current Expenditure	54.7	54.1	0.7	1.2
Net Cash Requirement	7.0	7.3	-0.3	-4.5

Expected Media Commentary

With borrowing considerably higher than both last November and market expectations these stats will be viewed as bad news for the government. Receipts growth is poor again (though some will note that this is in part due to large FCA fines received last year) and CG expenditure continues to grow more quickly than the OBR full year forecast.

While there have been some downwards revisions to year-to-date borrowing there is little sign of catching up with the AS ‘run rate’. PSNB for the 8 months to November is £6.6bn less than last year against an AS forecast of a £15.7bn full year fall and this is without taking into account the expected impact of the inclusion of housing associations which will make things worse.

Internal HMT View

In order to better understand the public finance position relative to the AS forecast the accompanying briefing tables include a ‘like for like’ comparison. This removes the impact of housing associations form

the forecast as well as some other classification decisions that OBR has anticipated ahead of inclusion in the statistics.

On this basis CG receipts growth looks better than the headline numbers suggest. YTD growth is 3.1% against a full year forecast of 3.5%. To meet the OBR forecast this does imply stronger receipts growth in the final quarter. The OBR have forecast this to come in part from stamps with good growth in the rest of the year despite year-on-year falls so far and from strong SA in January/February.

Within CG expenditure the remainder of the year will need to see spending falls compared to last year in 'other current'. This is plausible given that a large DFID payment was made early this year and LG grants have been relatively front-loaded. In addition last December saw large EU payments which will not be repeated.

██████████ | ██████████ | Fiscal Statistics and Policy
HM Treasury, 1 Blue, 1 Horse Guards Road, SW1A 2HQ | ██████████
🌿 Please consider the environment before printing this email
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

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Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 21 December 2015 11:54
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Housing associations

[REDACTED]

I gather than John bumped into the Perm Sec of DCLG last week, and that DCLG are very confident that the new clauses they are introducing/have introduced will be sufficient to get HAS into the private sector.

I was wondering if we had a view on whether these clauses are sufficient? The reason I ask is that if they are not likely to do the trick, it would be good to be prepared.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

██████████

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 16 December 2015 14:26
To: ██████████ Fletcher, Miles
Cc: ██████████
Subject: FW: Note of meeting with ██████████ (FT) and ██████████ (Times)

Miles, could you send us the line to see, please?

From: Miles Fletcher [mailto:██████████@ons.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 14 December 2015 16:49
To: Athow, Jonathan
Cc: Cameron, Douglas; ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ Prestwood, Mike; National Statistician; ██████████ ██████████ Robert Bumpstead
Subject: Re: Note of meeting with ██████████ (FT) and ██████████ (Times)

Thanks Jonathan

We've agreed a reactive line with ██████████ in case of further interest in the 500 jobs issue. It stresses that we shall seek to avoid hard redundancies.

BTW I recall asking ██████████ editor whether he thought we were too defensive (this was in the wake of the Carney criticisms). He thought not and said our problem was that quite a few sources had been briefing against us! Hopefully those days are now behind us.

Miles

Miles Fletcher
Head of Media and Public Relations
Office for National Statistics
Direct ██████████
Mob. ██████████

Media Relations Office telephone: +44 (0)845 604 1858/ +44 (0)203 684 5070 (8:30am - 5:30pm Weekdays).
Emergency out of hours (limited service): ██████████.

From: ██████████ @exchange.ons.gov.uk
To: ██████████ @exchange.ons.gov.uk, ██████████ exchange.ons.gov.uk, ██████████ exchange.ons.gov.uk, ██████████ @exchange.ons.gov.uk, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS, ██████████ exchange.ons.gov.uk, Robert Bumpstead/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ exchange.ons.gov.uk
Cc: ██████████ @exchange.ons.gov.uk
Date: 14/12/2015 16:25
Subject: Note of meeting with ██████████ (FT) and ██████████ (Times)

Dear all,

Quick note of two conversations with journalists today.

- 1) ██████████ (FT). Pretty straightforward opportunity to catch up.
- Discussed ██████████ review. ██████████ thought it a fair report - and setting out quite an ambitious programme of change. Interested in what governance side of review might say (I stayed relatively quiet on that).
- Made point that SR was tough but fair - need to make savings to recycle into new capabilities. ██████████ saw that and

need for us to transform IT and data collection.

- Talked about scope for admin data: said that VAT was important step, but also interested in other data sources such as RTI to get view on labour market.
- Going with grain of [REDACTED] I flagged announcements on increasing economic capability, including links to academics and need to expand economic capability. Welcomed what we were doing in being more open, e.g. Economic Forum - though wondered if Forum could be shortened or more focused on getting under headlines (and less on recapping recent economic news). He was also keen to know what a final 'London presence' would look like.

2) [REDACTED] (Times). Quite an involved discussion with him (90 minutes) pressing on a number of issues.

- Had to recap over management changes (new DG roles), which had passed him by. Was pushing on the role of UKSA as producer and regulator.
- He was very interested in our savings (mentioned c20%) and what this would mean. Said we were spending a lot on paper based products (e.g. c1.25m forms from business, with postage costs of c£1m). He asked what it would mean in staff numbers, so used the 500 fewer from staff talks last week. (I think he might well write this up.)
- Interested in data access - in particular our planned use of VAT data for short-term economic output indicators. (Particularly interested in the fact that 30k paper MBS surveys could be replaced by up to 1m VAT returns).
- Picked up on our plans for greater use of academics, which lead to a conversation on double deflation (through stressed unclear what effect this would have on growth rates).
- Also detailed conversation on a couple of issues:

- RPI. Pressed hard on future of RPI - interested in whether we would switch to Jevons for RPI. I said focus was on developing CPIH, as thought this was better than RPIJ (or RPI). Said clear RPI was not right approach, but that we recognised that many people used RPI and could not leave them high and dry.
- Housing associations. Wanted to know about timing of review, and also whether Govt could iterate proposals that would in effect be a commentary on what Govt needed to do on classification. Kept to the line that HA classification was on existing policy and we wanted to avoid being drawn into advice on classification: we had processes and HMT had expertise if they wanted to get advice.
 - Interestingly he reflected that they had been very negative in the past, though at same time said he thought ONS had tendency to be too defensive.

Happy to discuss.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] ons.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 25 November 2015 10:36
To: Fletcher, Miles
Subject: Fw: Email from [REDACTED] Draft Interim Report by Thursday 26th November
Attachments: DRAFT Independent Review of Economic Statistics Interim Report.pdf

Miles - I checked in with the team re sharing - but please don't share more widely.

Thanks!

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS on 25/11/2015 10:35 -----

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Date: 25/11/2015 08:04
Subject: Fw: Email from [REDACTED] Draft Interim Report by Thursday 26th November
Sent by: [REDACTED]

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

'phone: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS on 25/11/2015 08:03 -----

From: [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
To: [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, John Pullinger@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] outlook.com, [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
Date: 25/11/2015 08:01
Subject: Email from [REDACTED] Draft Interim Report by Thursday 26th November

Dear [REDACTED] John and Jonathan,

Thank you very much for your engagement with me and my Review team over the past few months. I am attaching a draft of my Interim Report, due to be published on Wednesday 2nd December at 10am.

I am sharing this draft with you for two reasons. First, to ensure its factual accuracy. And second to be able to consider any changes you would like to suggest to the report's tone and arguments. Much like the production of economic statistics, revisions are sometimes necessary when new evidence and data come through. With that in mind, I am very happy to consider any comments or proposed changes that you

personally may wish to put forward.

I would also encourage your officials to make good use of my Review team – to understand the arguments, the context and to talk through any detailed factual changes.

Given the turnaround time and the need to finalise the document over the weekend so it can be typeset for electronic publication, **we kindly request comments by 7pm on Thursday 26th November**. We will struggle to take on board comments received after Thursday.

The contents of this draft report are sensitive until publication. I have not wanted to set a restrictive pre-release access list for your institution, and so **I trust you to share with the relevant officials on a need-to-know basis**.

The one caveat I wish to make is that this is a *draft* of the Interim Report, and as such there will be changes to the document between now and publication date. I hope to only make a few substantive changes to the content, but at this stage I hope you understand that I cannot rule this out. To be aware, there are a number of formatting changes that my team are still working on.

Warm regards,

██████████

Sent by The Review team on ██████████'s behalf.

██████████, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ | Tel: ██████████

This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete the email. This footnote also confirms that our email communications may be monitored to ensure the secure and effective operation of our systems and for other lawful purposes, and that this email has been swept for malware and viruses.

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Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes. (See attached file: *DRAFT Independent Review of Economic Statistics Interim Report.pdf*)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 25 November 2015 08:04
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Email from [REDACTED] Draft Interim Report by Thursday 26th November
Attachments: DRAFT Independent Review of Economic Statistics Interim Report.pdf

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS on 25/11/2015 08:03 -----

From: [REDACTED] Clarke@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
To: [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, John Pullinger@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] outlook.com, [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
Date: 25/11/2015 08:01
Subject: Email from [REDACTED] Draft Interim Report by Thursday 26th November

Dear [REDACTED] John and Jonathan,

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The one caveat I wish to make is that this is a *draft* of the Interim Report, and as such there will be changes to the document between now and publication date. I hope to only make a few substantive changes to the content, but at this stage I hope you understand that I cannot rule this out. To be aware, there are a number of formatting changes that my team are still working on.

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 13 November 2015 14:52
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FOI: On Housing Associations Classification

[REDACTED]

I have looked through my email. I have interpreted the request as referring to the substance of the decision on classification announced at the end of October (i.e. not about future policy proposals, nor about the timing of the announcement).

In which case, the only thing I have is this.



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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ [REDACTED] 11/11/2015 10:19:36---Dear All, We have received a freedom of information request in relation to the recent classification

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: National Statistician@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 11/11/2015 10:19
Subject: FOI: On Housing Associations Classification

Dear All,

We have received a freedom of information request in relation to the recent classification decision on Housing Associations.

The request reads;

"Further to your recent announcement, I would like to ask you all for documents, minutes of meetings and supporting documentation, as well as relevant written and electronic correspondence regarding the classification of private registered providers of social housing in England as public sector entities."

Can you please therefore forward any relevant communication that can be included in this request.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

National Accounts Classifications Branch | na.classifications@ons.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 11 November 2015 17:28
To: Parliamentary Unit
Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Holden, Vanessa
Subject: Re: Green Investment Bank / classification

Vanessa,

My suggestion is to find a way to keep to our standard line, but without looking unhelpful. (Good luck with that.)

More specifically, as you suggest, I would drop the Green Investment Bank a call saying we have received this request and our normal approach would be to refer them to the party requesting the advice.

I would then go back to the committee along the similar lines.

I don't really think we can do anything else, as holding our line on this is very important to give us the space to work, and to give decision makers confidence in sharing information with us.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ Parliamentary Unit---11/11/2015 16:26:20---Hi [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Jonathan, I have had a query this afternoon from the clerk at the Environmental

From: Parliamentary Unit
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 11/11/2015 16:26
Subject: Green Investment Bank / classification
Sent by: Vanessa Holden

Hi [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Jonathan,

I have had a query this afternoon from the clerk at the Environmental Audit Committee, about the classification of the Green Investment Bank.

The Committee are currently undertaking an [inquiry into the possible privatisation of the Bank](#) and say that they understand ONS has provided some advice to the Bank about the impact of privatisation on the classification. (I've just checked through the oral evidence and [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Green Investment Bank, revealed that during questioning). The Committee is seeking the advice we provided to the Green Investment Bank, either on or off the record.

Obviously, this tension around what advice we privately provide on classifications surfaced during the recent housing association decision. I know on the one hand we are keen to protect the process by which we provide information in confidence, but I was wondering if you had any thoughts on how we balance that with requests of these kinds.

Given that [REDACTED] has talked about the advice openly, we could perhaps gauge the Green Investment Bank's willingness to publish it? That way we stick with our line that it's up to the recipients to decide what they do with such advice, while remaining helpful to the Committee.

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 05 November 2015 12:49
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Fletcher, Miles; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Holden, Vanessa
Subject: Re: Inside Housing

[REDACTED]

To be expected. Any feedback form HMT - either press office or classification people on how they are viewing this?

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 05/11/2015 10:20:30---The article is out... they've gone with the angle we feared they would, but they've included our com

From: [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS
To: Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Date: 05/11/2015 10:20
Subject: Inside Housing

The article is out... they've gone with the angle we feared they would, but they've included our comment in full, so I don't think we can have any complaints...

ONS planned review of government reforms

Officials had planned to assess the impact of sweeping government changes to housing associations in deciding whether they should be public bodies, emails reveal.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will add £60bn of housing association debt to the national balance sheet in March, after reclassifying them as part of the public sector last week.

The decision was based on legislation introduced by Labour in 2008 and the coalition in 2011, but not forthcoming changes such as the Right to Buy extension and the rent cut which were not included in the review.

However, correspondence released following an Inside Housing Freedom of Information Act request show the ONS was preparing for a review of "draft and proposed changes" in July.

An email from an ONS official to the Treasury on 28 July said: "In light of recent media attention, I am due to draft a classification paper on housing associations. This decision will be based on proposed and draft legislation."

But after receiving a redacted response from the Treasury, the official replied saying they had "misunderstood the scope of the review".

A further email, sent in August, said the eventual review would be carried out "partly to ensure we have a firm

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 04 November 2015 14:34
To: [REDACTED] Holden, Vanessa
Subject: Fw: FOI2489

To see. The plan was to only take out the material relating to the policy proposal.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS on 04/11/2015 14:32 -----

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 18/09/2015 15:33
Subject: Re: Fw: FOI2489

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the update - assuming this is standard practice, but can we make sure Media Relations are in the loop and aware of what the FOI will give out?

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ [REDACTED] 17/09/2015 18:05:04---FYI - John has agreed that the policy proposal material collated in response to the HA FoI can be re

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Date: 17/09/2015 18:05
Subject: Fw: FOI2489

FYI - John has agreed that the policy proposal material collated in response to the HA FoI can be removed. The other information does disclose that we are looking at the current classification of HAs.👍

Thanks

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS on 17/09/2015 18:01 -----

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, FOI Team@ONS, [REDACTED] TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS,
Cc: National Statistician@ONS
Date: 17/09/2015 12:48
Subject: Re: FOI2489

Hi both

Sorry for the delay. John gave me his response last night and he agrees with your assessment.

I have seen a note from Jonathan Athow about housing association classifications and I wondered whether there is any connection? I think [REDACTED] is already aware of this...

Thanks, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
UK Statistics Authority | Central Policy Secretariat (CPS) | Statistics House | Cardiff Road | Newport NP10 8XG
Tel: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] statistics.gsi.gov.uk Web: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk Twitter: [@UKStatsAuth](https://twitter.com/UKStatsAuth)

▼ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 15/09/2015 10:42:34---My recommendation is that we disclose only the factual information and not policy proposal informati

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: FOI Team@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS
Date: 15/09/2015 10:42
Subject: Re: FOI2489

My recommendation is that we disclose only the factual information and not policy proposal information. This means that we would not disclose some of the pages in the document that HMT sent to us.

Thanks


[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Deputy Director
Government, Corporations and Classifications Division
Office for National Statistics

Tel: [REDACTED]

▼ FOI Team---15/09/2015 10:37:08---Good morning [REDACTED] I have just spoken to [REDACTED] re this FOI request, and she has asked

From: FOI Team
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, FOI Team@ONS
Date: 15/09/2015 10:37
Subject: FOI2489
Sent by: [REDACTED]

Good morning [REDACTED]

I have just spoken to [REDACTED] re this  FOI request, and she has asked what we (the FOI Team and the business area) are recommending as a response to the request.

From an FOI perspective I can say that the exemption is definitely engaged and I think the argument to withhold is stronger than that to release so that the public interest test is passed.

Can you reply to [REDACTED] and let her know what your recommendation is re disclosure?

Any problems let me know.

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 04 November 2015 08:58
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Daily Media Summary - 4 November 2015

That article on construction comparing our figures with Markit looks quite important.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS on 04/11/2015 08:56 -----

From: [REDACTED]/NEWPORT/ONS
To:
Date: 04/11/2015 08:51
Subject: Daily Media Summary - 4 November 2015

Daily Media Summary - 4 November 2015

CONSTRUCTION 'Strong construction statistics at odds with ONS findings' headlines [The Independent](#) this morning. This comes as the Markit/Cips Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) 'showed a reading of 58.8, well above the mark that separates expansion from contraction' in October, while the 'latest GDP estimate from ONS showed construction output had shrank by 2.2% in the three months to September'. [REDACTED] of IHS Insight is quoted as saying the divergence between the two sets of figures raises 'considerable doubt' about the accuracy of official construction data. The article also says 'ONS had been due to release a report comparing their own figures and those of Markit on 11 September but this had to be cancelled for operational reasons'. The Financial Times headlines 'Private sector says construction is firmly in expansion mode' and also says the latest Market/Cips data are at 'odds' with ONS's. The FT say 'the ONS monthly construction statistics lost their status as national Statistics in December, so economists are paying closer attentions to private sector surveys'. The PMI is also covered by City AM and The Daily Telegraph, but no reference is made to the apparent differences between the data.

HOUSE PRICES According to the [Daily Express](#), who report on analysis from property group JLL, 'economic success' will fuel a 'five-year property boom across the UK' with 'typical' house prices likely to 'soar by around 23%'. The 'data company Eurostat' is also referenced as it showed the UK 'should experience population growth of 3.2% until 2020'. Meanwhile, [The Mirror](#) online headline 'London house prices set to crash in 2017 with market currently nearing a bubble'.

RETAIL [City AM](#) headlines 'Shop prices fall as festive sales battle heats up' as the British Retail Consortium report that prices fell by 1.8% on the year. This was apparently 'dragged down by low commodity prices and fierce competition among retailers ahead of the crucial Christmas period'.

[REDACTED] Not a media story (yet) but worth mentioning: In response to the Sir [REDACTED]'s review economic statistics, NIESR has [published a paper](#) by [REDACTED] arguing that "despite access to more economic data than ever before, alongside this is greater uncertainty over what is being measured and whether it is meaningful". She says the key issues are whether the methods used by statistical agencies have kept pace with changing business and consumer behaviour and whether statistical definitions and conventions – notably real GDP growth – remain useful indicators.

Social Media Summary - Tuesday 03 November

Economic Review

That march of the makers in full: reminder from @ONS of what's driven recovery (spoiler: it's not manufacturing)...
[https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED\]/status/661479253515505664](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED]/status/661479253515505664)

ResolutionFoundation

.@ONS econ review today. Long-term rise in ratio of retired to non-retired household income
http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_422304.pdf ...
<https://twitter.com/resfoundation/status/661480062663921664>

.@ONS also shows how wage squeeze and recovery has played out differently across industries
ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/elmr/e...
<https://twitter.com/resfoundation/status/661480846684127232>

Ratio of retired to non-retired household median income since 1979. Fascinating stuff from the @ONS
[https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED\]/status/661486293474504709](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED]/status/661486293474504709)

If you read one thing on the UK economy this month, make it the ONS Economic Review:
ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_...
[https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED\]/status/661482168561045504](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED]/status/661482168561045504)

Never mind manufacturing -- UK financial and insurance output is still 7.4 percent below its Q1 2008 level, ONS says
ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_...
[https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED\]/status/661483840607666176](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED]/status/661483840607666176)

And if you put doctors and nurses on that graph then we're 15% down since 2008 not 5%. We've already done our bit
[https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED\]/status/661480334865907712](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED]/status/661480334865907712)

Housing Associations

Missed this last week. Big news. Govt (Lab, Cln, Con) get its comeuppance for endless fiddling with social housing.
[https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED\]/status/661469898938429440](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED]/status/661469898938429440)

Government will work to return #housing association to private sector through "deregulatory measures", says [REDACTED]
publicfinance.co.uk/news/2015/11/c...
[https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED\]/status/661471654112030720](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED]/status/661471654112030720)

Crime Statistics

Characteristics associated with being a victim of violence, 2011-12 CSEW (ONS) ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-...
[https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED\]/status/661466713905635328](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED]/status/661466713905635328)

Pension Calculator

How long will retirement income need to last? Get an idea of your life expectancy with this calculator #pensions
visual.ons.gov.uk/how-long-will-...
[https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED\]/status/661458813682188289](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED]/status/661458813682188289)

Population Projections

██████████
Forecast by ONS of 10m growth in population over next 25yrs is huge and completely unsustainable - services already reaching breaking point.

<https://twitter.com/██████████/status/661441107407020032>

Census - Travel to Work (Visual ONS)

Visijax

Incredible stats for #London #cyclists. Now onto the rest of the country, right?

<https://twitter.com/ONS/status/639361872953802752>

██████████
Deputy Head of Media and Public Relations

Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

Room 1.101 | Ystafell 1.101

Government Buildings | Adeiladau'r Llywodraeth

Cardiff Road | Heol Caerdydd

Newport | Casnewydd

NP10 8XG

Telephone: ██████████

twitter.com/ONS facebook.com/statisticsONS

Media Relations Office telephone: +44 (0)845 604 1858 or +44 (0)203 684 5070 (8:30am - 5:30pm Weekdays)

Emergency out of hours (limited service): ██████████

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 29 October 2015 17:15
To: [REDACTED]@digital.ons.gov.uk
Subject: Fw: Housing associations

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS on 29/10/2015 17:14 -----

From: [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk,
Cc: [REDACTED]@NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]@NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 28/10/2015 16:24
Subject: RE: Housing associations

Jonathan

Thanks. I just called to check that things felt joined-up from your side with HMT and DCLG.

All the best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, SW1A 2HQ | [REDACTED] | Blackberry [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

From: Jonathan Athow [<mailto:jonathan.athow@ons.gsi.gov.uk>]
Sent: 28 October 2015 11:20
To: [REDACTED] - HMT
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Housing associations

[REDACTED]

Two things on Housing Associations.

- 1) We are going to confirm on our website today that we will publish the outcome of the review on the current classification of housing associations at 9:30 on Friday (which is our next regular release on classifications). Our previous public statement just said end of October, but we are just clarifying the exact date.
- 2) [REDACTED] wrote to John Pullinger. He enquired about the timing of the current review of classification, which will be straightforward once we have the announcement on the website. He also asks us (a) to publish any provisional advice we may have given to you on classification with the new legislation and (b) to comment on the current draft of the bill. We are going to reply with our standard lines that (a) provisional advice to policy makers is

provided on a confidential basis (but that policy makers are free to publish if they choose) and (b) that we do not provide a running commentary as policy develops.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk) | 'phone: [REDACTED]

For the latest data on the economy and society, consult National Statistics at <http://www.ons.gov.uk>

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This email was scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Vodafone in partnership with Symantec. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisations IT Helpdesk.

Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 29 October 2015 17:13
To: Holden, Vanessa
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Re: Tomorrow's classification publication
Attachments: [redacted] draft response - ja.doc

John's happy with it, so here is a clean version to go.

(See attached file: [redacted] draft response - ja.doc)

Jonathan Athow | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics
'phone: [redacted] | mobile: [redacted] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ
Private secretary: [redacted] | [redacted] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [redacted]

▼ Vanessa Holden---29/10/2015 16:30:42---Thanks Jonathan. Looks good to me. V

From: Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [redacted] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [redacted] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [redacted] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [redacted] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Date: 29/10/2015 16:30
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Re: Tomorrow's classification publication

Thanks Jonathan. Looks good to me.

V

Vanessa Holden | Central Policy Secretariat | UK Statistics Authority | 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: [redacted] | Email: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk Web: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk Twitter: @UKStatsAuth

▼ Jonathan Athow---29/10/2015 16:29:07---Vanessa, A couple of edits - have briefly talked to John, but if others are happy - will try and run

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [redacted] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [redacted] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [redacted] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [redacted] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Date: 29/10/2015 16:29
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Re: Tomorrow's classification publication

Vanessa,

A couple of edits - have briefly talked to John, but if others are happy - will try and run this past him for final sign off around 5pm.

[attachment "[redacted] draft response - ja.doc" deleted by Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS]

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ Vanessa Holden---29/10/2015 15:44:06---Hi [REDACTED] I have plugged the [REDACTED] letter into our template, and have made a couple of suggesti

From: Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 29/10/2015 15:44
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Re: Tomorrow's classification publication

Hi [REDACTED]

I have plugged the [REDACTED] letter into our template, and have made a couple of suggestions.

I think it's worth us providing links to both the available information on the scope, and the published procedures. Have footnoted these both.

I also was not sure about these two sentences: *The ONS is required to maintain its independence in compiling official statistics. It does not, therefore, involve itself in the development of government policy.*

I don't think that they are strictly necessary and risk giving the impression that policy makers work without any regard for official stats (though I know this is not what we mean). I have therefore removed them from the draft.

What do you think? If you are content, we can ask JA to review at 4pm.

Thanks

V


Vanessa Holden | Central Policy Secretariat | UK Statistics Authority | 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] @statistics.gov.uk Web: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk Twitter: @UKStatsAuth

[attachment "[REDACTED] draft response.doc" deleted by Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS]

▼ [REDACTED] 29/10/2015 12:57:22---Jonathan/Vanessa, After receiving comments from all cc'd, [REDACTED] and other NAES DD's have now approv

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 29/10/2015 12:57
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Tomorrow's classification publication

Jonathan/Vanessa,

After receiving comments from all cc'd, [REDACTED] and other NAES DD's have now approved the drafts for each of the documents enclosed in the link ()

Please could you look over and suggest any final modifications **for me to take on by 1.45pm**. I shall then circulate final copies to HMT colleagues.

Happy to discuss,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

National Accounts Classifications Secretariat

Office for National Statistics | Room 1.264 | Government Buildings | Cardiff Road | Newport NP10 8XG

☎ [Redacted] | ✉ [Redacted] ons.gsi.gov.uk

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 29 October 2015 16:29
To: Holden, Vanessa
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Re: Tomorrow's classification publication
Attachments: [REDACTED] draft response - ja.doc

Vanessa,

A couple of edits - have briefly talked to John, but if others are happy - will try and run this past him for final sign off around 5pm.

(See attached file: [REDACTED] draft response - ja.doc)

Jonathan Athow | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics
'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ
Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ Vanessa Holden---29/10/2015 15:44:06---Hi [REDACTED] I have plugged the [REDACTED] letter into our template, and have made a couple of suggesti

From: Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 29/10/2015 15:44
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Re: Tomorrow's classification publication

Hi [REDACTED]

I have plugged the [REDACTED] letter into our template, and have made a couple of suggestions.

I think it's worth us providing links to both the available information on the scope, and the published procedures. Have footnoted these both.

I also was not sure about these two sentences: *The ONS is required to maintain its independence in compiling official statistics. It does not, therefore, involve itself in the development of government policy.*

I don't think that they are strictly necessary and risk giving the impression that policy makers work without any regard for official stats (though I know this is not what we mean). I have therefore removed them from the draft.

What do you think? If you are content, we can ask JA to review at 4pm.

Thanks

V


Vanessa Holden | Central Policy Secretariat | UK Statistics Authority | 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk Web: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk Twitter: @UKStatsAuth

[attachment [REDACTED] draft response.doc" deleted by Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS]

▼ [REDACTED] 29/10/2015 12:57:22---Jonathan/Vanessa, After receiving comments from all cc'd, [REDACTED] and other NAES DD's have now approve

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 29/10/2015 12:57
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Tomorrow's classification publication



Jonathan/Vanessa,

After receiving comments from all cc'd, [REDACTED] and other NAES DD's have now approved the drafts for each of the documents enclosed in the link ().

Please could you look over and suggest any final modifications **for me to take on by 1.45pm**. I shall then circulate final copies to HMT colleagues.

Happy to discuss,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
National Accounts Classifications Secretariat
Office for National Statistics | Room 1.264 | Government Buildings | Cardiff Road | Newport NP10 8XG
 [REDACTED] |  [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 28 October 2015 17:15
To: [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Housing associations

[REDACTED]

I think we have everything under control on the classification of the current position.

The one question we have is whether you have any plans to publish our letter on future classification in light your policy proposals, and if so, when? We sent HMT colleagues a draft of this letter to fact check a while back. And while HMT gave us some comments, we hadn't fully got to the bottom of them, so either (1) need to get those bottomed out before we send you the final, or (2) go with our original draft.

Jonathan Athow | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics
'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

28/10/2015 16:24:13---Jonathan Thanks. I just called to check that things felt joined-up from your side with HMT and DCLG.

From: [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 28/10/2015 16:24
Subject: RE: Housing associations

Jonathan

Thanks. I just called to check that things felt joined-up from your side with HMT and DCLG.

All the best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, SW1A 2HQ | [REDACTED] | Blackberry [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

From: Jonathan Athow [<mailto:jonathan.athow@ons.gsi.gov.uk>]
Sent: 28 October 2015 11:20
To: [REDACTED] - HMT
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Housing associations

██████████

Two things on Housing Associations.

1) We are going to confirm on our website today that we will publish the outcome of the review on the current classification of housing associations at 9:30 on Friday (which is our next regular release on classifications). Our previous public statement just said end of October, but we are just clarifying the exact date.

2) ██████████ wrote to John Pullinger. He enquired about the timing of the current review of classification, which will be straightforward once we have the announcement on the website. He also asks us (a) to publish any provisional advice we may have given to you on classification with the new legislation and (b) to comment on the current draft of the bill. We are going to reply with our standard lines that (a) provisional advice to policy makers is provided on a confidential basis (but that policy makers are free to publish if they choose) and (b) that we do not provide a running commentary as policy develops.

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

'phone: ██████████ | mobile: ██████████ Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: ██████████ | ██████████ ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: ██████████

For the latest data on the economy and society, consult National Statistics at <http://www.ons.gov.uk>

Please Note: Incoming and outgoing email messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our policy on the use of electronic communications

Legal Disclaimer: Any views expressed by the sender of this message are not necessarily those of the Office for National Statistics

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Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete the email. This footnote also confirms that our email communications may be monitored to ensure the secure and effective operation of our systems and for other lawful purposes, and that this email has been swept for malware and viruses.

The original of this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet virus scanning service supplied by Vodafone in partnership with Symantec. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) This email has been certified virus free.

Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 28 October 2015 10:25
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

Thanks - I like the wording, though I think [REDACTED] wants to insert some wording to reiterate that this is about the current position/legislation.

Are HMT up to speed on our plans for Friday? i was planning to drop [REDACTED] an email saying we are about to put this announcement on the website.

I think we might just want to tweak our approach to announcement for some of the big classification issues. While I can see that the approach of publishing the workplan and indicating end of e.g. October is good, it still risks a surprise - as no one knows for sure whether a decision will be in the monthly release until it is published. So I would be in favour of a few days before publication confirming what will be in the release. That way we keep our options open - after all, a review might take longer than expected, but try to give people as much certainty as possible.

Jonathan Athow | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics
'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

28/10/2015 10:02:09---Jonathan, We have preannounced Friday in so far that we announced we were looking at the classificat

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 28/10/2015 10:02
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

Jonathan,

We have preannounced Friday in so far that we announced we were looking at the classification of PRPs of social housing in England in the [Forward Work Plan](#) published at the end of September (see item 1). That stated that we expected to complete our assessment in October this year. It is therefore a matter of course (i.e. in accordance with our published practice) that it would be included in the next release following the decision being made, which goes out at 9.30am on Friday.

The release itself is always preannounced on the hub.

Of course, we are free to put out a further announcement if required. If so, myself and [REDACTED] would like to suggest:

"We had previously advised that ONS were assessing the impact of legislative and regulatory changes under the latest 2010 European System of Accounts Rules on providers of social housing, and that we expected this would be completed in October 2015. We can now confirm that ONS will publish its findings at 09:30 on Friday 30 October. ."

Kind regards

██████████

██████████ | Head of National Accounts Classifications | na.classifications@ons.gov.uk

Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG
██████████ ons.gov.uk | ██████████

▼ Jonathan Athow---28/10/2015 09:49:35---Just a further update on what is going on. 1) ██████████ has a call with John on HA classificatio

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████
██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ LONDON/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 28/10/2015 09:49
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

Just a further update on what is going on.

1) ██████████ has a call with John on HA classification. Not sure quite what ██████████ will want to say, but John up to speed.

2) We were worrying a little that we hadn't pre-announced Friday, and are therefore thinking of putting some wording on the website today along the lines of "Announced earlier that we were planning to conclude our review of the current classification of Housing Associations by end of October. Can now confirm that the outcome of the review will be published at 9:30 on Friday."

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

'phone: ██████████ | mobile: ██████████ Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: ██████████ | ██████████ ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: ██████████

▼ Jonathan Athow---28/10/2015 08:45:20---██████████ I have some sympathy with the idea of replying to the letter the day before would be good, b

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████
██████████ LONDON/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 28/10/2015 08:45
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

██████████

I have some sympathy with the idea of replying to the letter the day before would be good, but just talking this through with Vanessa here, I think the challenge is that we haven't - as far as I know - announced we are publishing our review on Friday. That makes drafting the letter quite difficult, as I am certain the moment he receives it, it will be published.

So we probably have to go with Friday.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ [REDACTED] 27/10/2015 18:03:16--- [REDACTED] Given they are asking about the announcement in their letter I wonder whether it would be better

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 27/10/2015 18:03
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

[REDACTED]

Given they are asking about the announcement in their letter I wonder whether it would be better to respond the day before so they are aware that an announcement will be made prior to it actually being made. I am back in the office tomorrow so let's discuss then.

Jonathan - do you have a view on the timing of the response to the official correspondence?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

▼ [REDACTED] 27/10/2015 16:48:08--- [REDACTED] The suggestion from Central Policy Secretariat was that we respond on Friday providing links

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 27/10/2015 16:48
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

[REDACTED]

The suggestion from Central Policy Secretariat was that we respond on Friday providing links to the publication (and explaining why there had to be two classifications reviews). [REDACTED] and I have discussed and we think that there may be some benefits in going with the suggestion to respond to the letter on Friday ensuring that it coincides with the announcement.

However they were open to further suggestions do you still feel we should respond before then?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG
| 01633 45 5706

▼ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 27/10/2015 16:28:42-- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Can you please draft a response to the official correspondence below as a matter of urg

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 27/10/2015 16:28
Subject: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Can you please draft a response to the official correspondence below as a matter of urgency given that we will be making the announcement on Friday.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS on 27/10/2015 16:26 -----

From: [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Date: 27/10/2015 14:07
Subject: Official Correspondence for Response

Dear colleague,

You have been assigned a new piece of correspondence.

To confirm receipt of this, please open the link and nominate an action officer.

Once the action officer has submitted a draft, it will be returned to you for approval. By approving the draft, you will be confirming that it meets the standards set out in the Authority's OC guidance (available at <http://intranet/workinginons/howtoguides/communicationsandpublishing/pqandofficial/index.asp>).

If you should have any questions, don't hesitate to get in contact with the Authority's Parliamentary unit (parliamentary.unit@statistics.gsi.gov.uk).



[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 28 October 2015 09:50
To: Athow, Jonathan
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Holden, Vanessa
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

Just a further update on what is going on.

1) [REDACTED] has a call with John on HA classification. Not sure quite what [REDACTED] will want to say, but John up to speed.

2) We were worrying a little that we hadn't pre-announced Friday, and are therefore thinking of putting some wording on the website today along the lines of "Announced earlier that we were planning to conclude our review of the current classification of Housing Associations by end of October. Can now confirm that the outcome of the review will be published at 9:30 on Friday."

Jonathan Athow | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics
'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ Jonathan Athow---28/10/2015 08:45:20-- [REDACTED] I have some sympathy with the idea of replying to the letter the day before would be good, b

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 28/10/2015 08:45
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

[REDACTED]

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Jonathan Athow | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics
'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

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whether it would be better

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 27/10/2015 18:03
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 27/10/2015 16:48
Subject: Re: URGENT - please read: Official Correspondence for Response

[REDACTED]

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However they were open to further suggestions do you still feel we should respond before then?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

National Accounts Classifications Branch | na.classifications@ons.gov.uk

Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG
| 01633 45 5706

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From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS

██████ and ██████

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██████

----- Forwarded by ██████ ██████ NEWPORT/ONS on 27/10/2015 16:26 -----

From: ██████ ██████ LONDON/ONS
To: ██████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████ ██████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS@ONS, ██████
██████ LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Date: 27/10/2015 14:07
Subject: Official Correspondence for Response

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If you should have any questions, don't hesitate to get in contact with the Authority's Parliamentary unit (parliamentary.unit@statistics.gsi.gov.uk).



From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 22 October 2015 11:00
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: FOR REVIEW: Board paper on consumer prices
Attachments: SA15(xx) Consumer Prices - ANNEX A.docx; ATTVN8BL.docx; SA15(xx) Consumer Prices .docx

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS on 22/10/2015 10:59 -----

From: Vanessa Holden/LONDON/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 21/10/2015 14:23
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Board paper on consumer prices

Dear Jonathan,

Please see attached a short Board paper on consumer prices, intended to cover the Summary of Responses, which [REDACTED] drafted. Many thanks to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for their help in drafting this.

Do let me know if any additions or changes. We need to get this out to Board members tomorrow, I am afraid. Sorry about the tight timeframes.

(Just so you are aware, I am confirming the references to assessment with [REDACTED] at the moment. The details as currently drafted are as per the discussions I had with both he and [REDACTED] a while back. I will also flag in [REDACTED]'s briefing the importance of us locking down timeframes.)

Thanks

Vanessa

Vanessa Holden | Central Policy Secretariat | UK Statistics Authority | 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ
Tel: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@statistics.gov.uk Web: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk Twitter: @UKStatsAuth

(See attached file: SA15(xx) Consumer Prices .docx)(See attached file: SA15(xx) Consumer Prices - ANNEX A.docx)(See attached file: SA15(xx) Consumer Prices - ANNEX B.docx)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 19 October 2015 09:28
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Fw: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE
Attachments: Supporting papers.zip; DECC Local Heat Infrastructure and energy cost reduction pilots.docx; High low NPVs - for discussion OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE.DOCX; BIS - Responses to panel R&D, BBB, STEM.DOCX; DCLG - HMT cover note and dept. response.docx; DFE - Attainment benefits and schools in poor condition.docx

Hi [REDACTED]

Please could you print these papers for Jonathan ASAP? Including the papers in the zip file. Apologies -I realise this is a lot! When you have printed them out please could you ensure all the papers for each department are grouped together and clearly labelled for Jonathan (just a post-it showing each is fine).

Please also note that these papers are official sensitive and not to be left/shared.

Thanks so much!

[REDACTED]

(See attached file: DCLG - HMT cover note and dept. response.docx)(See attached file: BIS - Responses to panel R&D, BBB, STEM.DOCX)(See attached file: DECC Local Heat Infrastructure and energy cost reduction pilots.docx)(See attached file: DFE - Attainment benefits and schools in poor condition.docx)(See attached file: High low NPVs - for discussion OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE.DOCX)(See attached file: Supporting papers.zip)

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS on 19/10/2015 09:23 -----

From: [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
To: [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@bis.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@dft.gsi.gov.uk,
Cc: [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk,
Date: 16/10/2015 18:06
Subject: RE: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE

Dear Panel

Please see papers below for the final economist panel in **Room 2/08 at HMT 15:30 on Monday.**

This includes the following:

- **DCLG** – additionality of affordable housing bids (response from the department with cover note from the spending team)
- **BIS** – R&D, British Business Bank and STEM capital (response to the panel's steers)
- **DECC** – two bids (covering note from the spending team)

- DFE – attainment benefits (short note from the department on one of the points raised at yesterday’s panel)
- Short information note on **distribution of bids**
- Supporting papers:
 - Capital notes for the DECC bids
 - Academic research on schools maintenance for the DFE paper
 - DH have also provided the research where the panel questioned selection bias (mortality rate in research hospitals)
 - Also attached – [REDACTED]’s email of Thursday evening

Again all papers for personal use and not for circulation within departments

Look forward to seeing you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [HM Treasury](#) | 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ | [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - HMT
Sent: 13 October 2015 16:31
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - HMT; Athow, Jonathan; [REDACTED] communities.gsi.gov.uk'; [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] dft.gsi.gov.uk'
Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - HMT
Subject: RE: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE

Dear Panel

Ahead of Thursday, please note the **room is now G19** not G10

Please also find attached

- Revised note on DFE’s deterioration model (to replace original sent on Friday) – with apologies
- Summary of department’s responses on R&D
- Supporting papers on R&D – *detailed responses and revised evidence notes not essential reading*

On the fourth panel for Monday we are now looking at:

- DCLG additionality assumptions
- BIS response on R&D
- Short note on the distribution of bid NPVs now for information only
- Evaluation – where we would like your feedback on the process

Papers to be provided on Thursday, please let me know if you have any questions

Again all attachments for personal use

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

<< File: DFE cover note - Deterioration model v2.docx >> << File: R&D bids - summary of department's responses exc BIS.DOCX >>
 >> << File: Dept responses detail plus DH paper.zip >> << File: Updated evidence notes DH and DECC.zip >>

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [HM Treasury](#) | 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ | [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - HMT

Sent: 09 October 2015 17:34

To: [REDACTED] - HMT; Athow, Jonathan; [REDACTED] communities.gsi.gov.uk'; [REDACTED] dft.gsi.gov.uk'

Cc: [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT

Subject: RE: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE

Dear Panel

Please find attached papers for the third **SR Economists Panel next Thursday 3.30 at HMT (Room G10)**.

These papers are provided to you in your personal capacity as a senior GES economist and should not be shared within your department or more widely.

Attached:

- Summary of analysis in departments bids and questions for the panel (4x notes)
- Evidence notes from departments (for reference)
- Selected supporting empirical analysis

There are fewer bids here as we covered in the previous session (9 vs 16). We are still expecting a few additional short notes which I will get to you by Monday, some of these are follow ups from previous panel steers so should require less time familiarising in advance.

Some cover notes also provide web-links to supporting government commissioned research. These are all quite long. If you would like us to send you PDFs for printing please let me know.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thanks again for your help

Thanks << File: DFE cover note - Attainment benefits.docx >> << File: DFE cover note - Deterioration model.docx >> << File: BIS cover note - FE skills.docx >> << File: DCMS cover note.docx >> << File: Evidence notes panel 3.zip >> << File: Supporting papers for panel 3.zip >>

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [HM Treasury | 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ](http://www.gov.uk/hm-treasury) | [REDACTED] | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

From: [REDACTED] - HMT

Sent: 02 October 2015 17:32

To: [REDACTED] - HMT; Athow, Jonathan; [REDACTED] communities.gsi.gov.uk'; [REDACTED] dft.gsi.gov.uk'

Cc: [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT

Subject: RE: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE

Dear [REDACTED] / Panel,

Please find attached papers for the second **SR Economists Panel next Thursday 10am at HMT (Room 2/29.1)**

These papers are provided to you in your personal capacity as a senior GES economist and should not be shared within your department or more widely.

Attached:

- Summary of analysis in departments bids and questions for the panel (5x notes)
- Evidence notes from departments (for reference)
- Supporting empirical or other analysis where this was available (following your request and to read at individuals discretion, quite a bit here)

There are approximately as many bids here as we covered in the previous session, however they do cover a slightly wider range

of issues. Happy to discuss how we manage this next week if helpful.

If any trouble opening and printing files from the zipped attachments please let us know. Otherwise look forward to seeing you on Thursday

Thanks

<< File: DCLG cover note.docx >> << File: BIS cover note.docx >> << File: DFT cover note - Euston OSD-Mobile Connectivity-Inflation DRAFT.DOCX >> << File: DFE cover note - Attainment benefits.docx >> << File: DCMS cover note Blythe House Quantified Benefits Methodology.docx >>

<< File: Evidence notes.zip >> << File: Empirical and other supporting papers.zip >>

██████████ | ██████████ | ██████████ | HM Treasury | 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ | ██████████
██████████ | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

From: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT
Sent: 23 September 2015 18:31
To: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; Athow, Jonathan; ██████████ communities.gsi.gov.uk; ██████████
██████████ dft.gsi.gov.uk
Cc: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT
Subject: RE: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE

Dear ██████████ / Panel

Please find attached papers for the **SR Economists Panel next Monday 3pm at HMT (Room 2/12)**

These papers are provided to you in your personal capacity as a senior GES economist and should not be shared within your department or more widely.

- Attached:
- Summary of analysis in departments bids and questions for the panel
 - Supporting evidence notes from departments (for reference)

Happy to answer any questions. Otherwise look forward to seeing you on Monday

Thanks

<< File: Spending Review Economist Panels - R&D OFFICIAL SENSITIVE DRAFT.DOCX >> << File: R&D evidence notes.zip >>
██████████ | ██████████ | ██████████ | HM Treasury | 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ | ██████████
██████████ | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

-----Original Appointment-----

From: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT
Sent: 23 September 2015 15:24
To: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; Athow, Jonathan; ██████████ communities.gsi.gov.uk; ██████████ ██████████ dft.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Economists Panel - SR Capital Spending
When: 28 September 2015 15:00-17:00 (UTC) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: 1 Horse Guards Road - 2/12

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 14 October 2015 10:31
To: Cameron, Douglas
Subject: Fw: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE
Attachments: Dept responses detail plus DH paper.zip; Updated evidence notes DH and DECC.zip; DFE cover note - Deterioration model v2.docx; R&D bids - summary of department's responses exc BIS.DOCX

Should be here.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS on 14/10/2015 10:30 -----

From: [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
To: [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@bis.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@df.gov.uk,
Cc: [REDACTED]@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk,
Date: 13/10/2015 16:32
Subject: RE: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE

Dear Panel

Ahead of Thursday, please note the **room is now G19** not G10

Please also find attached

- **Revised** note on DFE's deterioration model (to replace original sent on Friday) – with apologies
- Summary of department's responses on R&D
- Supporting papers on R&D – *detailed responses and revised evidence notes not essential reading*

On the fourth panel for Monday we are now looking at:

- DCLG additionality assumptions
- BIS response on R&D
- Short note on the distribution of bid NPVs now for information only
- Evaluation – where we would like your feedback on the process

Papers to be provided on Thursday, please let me know if you have any questions

Again all attachments for personal use

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | **HM Treasury** | 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

From: [REDACTED] - HMT
Sent: 09 October 2015 17:34
To: [REDACTED] - HMT; Athow, Jonathan; [REDACTED] communities.gsi.gov.uk'; [REDACTED] dft.gsi.gov.uk'
Cc: [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT
Subject: RE: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE

Dear Panel

Please find attached papers for the third **SR Economists Panel next Thursday 3.30 at HMT (Room G10)**.

These papers are provided to you in your personal capacity as a senior GES economist and should not be shared within your department or more widely.

Attached:

- Summary of analysis in departments bids and questions for the panel (4x notes)
- Evidence notes from departments (for reference)
- Selected supporting empirical analysis

There are fewer bids here as we covered in the previous session (9 vs 16). We are still expecting a few additional short notes which I will get to you by Monday, some of these are follow ups from previous panel steers so should require less time familiarising in advance.

Some cover notes also provide web-links to supporting government commissioned research. These are all quite long. If you would like us to send you PDFs for printing please let me know.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thanks again for your help

Thanks << File: DFE cover note - Attainment benefits.docx >> << File: DFE cover note - Deterioration model.docx >> << File: BIS cover note - FE skills.docx >> << File: DCMS cover note.docx >> << File: Evidence notes panel 3.zip >> << File: Supporting papers for panel 3.zip >>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [HM Treasury | 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ](http://www.gov.uk/hm-treasury) | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

From: [REDACTED] - HMT
Sent: 02 October 2015 17:32
To: [REDACTED] - HMT; Athow, Jonathan; [REDACTED] communities.gsi.gov.uk'; [REDACTED] dft.gsi.gov.uk'
Cc: [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT; [REDACTED] - HMT
Subject: RE: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE

Dear [REDACTED] / Panel,

Please find attached papers for the second **SR Economists Panel next Thursday 10am at HMT (Room 2/29.1)**

These papers are provided to you in your personal capacity as a senior GES economist and should not be shared within your department or more widely.

Attached:

- Summary of analysis in departments bids and questions for the panel (5x notes)
- Evidence notes from departments (for reference)

- Supporting empirical or other analysis where this was available (following your request and to read at individuals discretion, quite a bit here)

There are approximately as many bids here as we covered in the previous session, however they do cover a slightly wider range of issues. Happy to discuss how we manage this next week if helpful.

If any trouble opening and printing files from the zipped attachments please let us know. Otherwise look forward to seeing you on Thursday

Thanks

██████████

<< File: DCLG cover note.docx >> << File: BIS cover note.docx >> << File: DFT cover note - Euston OSD-Mobile Connectivity-Inflation DRAFT.DOCX >> << File: DFE cover note - Attainment benefits.docx >> << File: DCMS cover note Blythe House Quantified Benefits Methodology.docx >>

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██████████ | ██████████ | ██████████ | [HM Treasury | 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ](mailto:██████████@hm-treasury.gov.uk) | ██████████
██████████ | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

From: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT
Sent: 23 September 2015 18:31
To: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; Athow, Jonathan; ██████████ communities.gsi.gov.uk; ██████████
██████████ dft.gsi.gov.uk
Cc: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT
Subject: RE: Economists Panel - SR OFFICIAL MARKET SENSITIVE

Dear ██████████ / Panel

Please find attached papers for the **SR Economists Panel next Monday 3pm at HMT (Room 2/12)**

These papers are provided to you in your personal capacity as a senior GES economist and should not be shared within your department or more widely.

- Attached:
- Summary of analysis in departments bids and questions for the panel
 - Supporting evidence notes from departments (for reference)

Happy to answer any questions. Otherwise look forward to seeing you on Monday

Thanks

██████████

<< File: Spending Review Economist Panels - R&D OFFICIAL SENSITIVE DRAFT.DOCX >> << File: R&D evidence notes.zip >>
██████████ | ██████████ | ██████████ | [HM Treasury | 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ](mailto:██████████@hm-treasury.gov.uk) | ██████████
██████████ | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

-----Original Appointment-----

From: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT
Sent: 23 September 2015 15:24
To: ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; ██████████ ██████████ - HMT; Athow, Jonathan; ██████████ communities.gsi.gov.uk; ██████████ dft.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Economists Panel - SR Capital Spending
When: 28 September 2015 15:00-17:00 (UTC) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: 1 Horse Guards Road - 2/12

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on behalf of Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 07 October 2015 15:38
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: [REDACTED] Letter
Attachments: CJCB-JT-BETT01002-01150496.pdf

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS on 07/10/2015 15:38 -----

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Date: 07/10/2015 15:20
Subject: [REDACTED] Letter
Sent by: [REDACTED]

(See attached file: CJCB-JT-BETT01002-01150496.pdf)

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on behalf of Athrow, Jonathan
Sent: 07 October 2015 15:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] Letter
Attachments: CJCJ-BT-BETT01002-01150496.pdf

(See attached file: CJCJ-BT-BETT01002-01150496.pdf)

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 25 September 2015 14:54
To: National Statistician
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Fw: Fw: Thursday Morning Colleagues (TMC) tomorrow morning - additional bullet points
Attachments: Thursday Morning Colleagues - 24 September 2015.doc

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS on 25/09/2015 14:54 -----

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: DL_Directors@ONS, Robert Bumpstead/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jennet Woolford/TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] exchange.ons.gov.uk, [REDACTED] TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS,
Cc: DL_Directors - Secretaries@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 09:55
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Fw: Thursday Morning Colleagues (TMC) tomorrow morning - additional bullet points

Dear all

Please see some additional bullet points from Social and Analysis directorate for this morning's meeting

Kind regards

- Glenn Everett attended the **Environmental Audit Committee** to advise on measurement issues in relation to Sustainable Development Goals. There was also an external presentation on Natural Capital. The Low Carbon Survey (of businesses) that we are doing with BIS has got a response rate of over 80%.
- Lord Bridges, who supports Oliver Letwin in ensuring that Government delivers on its 9 priority areas, has requested a briefing from ONS on how the demographic make up will change in the light of the **National Population Projections**. He wants to look at the impact on key Government priorities, such as apprenticeships, child care, NHS, migration, primary school places and infrastructure build. This will require a GSS effort and Jay Lindop will lead.
- [REDACTED], Director at the Resolution Foundation, has written to apologise for a **breach of protocol in relation to the Virtual Microdata Laboratory**.
- [REDACTED] has written up his notes of last week's **Directors of Social Statistics** and these have been circulated round.

[REDACTED] | Central Policy Secretariat | UK Statistics Authority | Tredegar Park, Newport, NP10
8XG | Tel: [REDACTED]
Online: [REDACTED] statistics.gov.uk | www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk | www.twitter.com/UKStatsAuth

 *Please consider the environment before printing this email*


----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS on 24/09/2015 09:50 -----

From: Authority Meetings

To: DL_Directors@ONS, Robert Bumpstead/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jennet Woolford/TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] exchange.ons.gov.uk, [REDACTED] TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, DL_Directors - Secretaries@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS
Date: 23/09/2015 17:23
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Thursday Morning Colleagues (TMC) tomorrow morning
Sent by: [REDACTED]

Dear all

Please see the attached note of bullet points for the Thursday Morning Colleagues meeting tomorrow morning.

The weekly media summary and lines to take can be found here .

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

(See attached file: Thursday Morning Colleagues - 24 September 2015.doc)

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS on 23/09/2015 17:18 -----

From: Authority Meetings
To: DL_Directors@ONS, Robert Bumpstead/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jennet Woolford/TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] exchange.ons.gov.uk,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, DL_Directors - Secretaries@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS
Date: 22/09/2015 14:18
Subject: Weekly bullet points for Thursday Morning Colleagues (TMC) meeting
Sent by: [REDACTED]

Dear all

Just the usual request to provide your weekly bullet points in advance of the TMC meeting this week, which **will** be taking place as usual.

A reminder to send your weekly bullet points to the 'Authority Meetings' in-box by **no later than 3pm tomorrow** (Wednesday) please, and to ensure that they are kept as brief and concise as possible - not more than five bullet points in total for each directorate please. If you send any more than five, they may not all be included in the note.

When you return you bullet points, please also confirm a) whether you will be attending the meeting yourself or sending a deputy and b) what location you will join the meeting from.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

8XG | Tel: [REDACTED] | Central Policy Secretariat | UK Statistics Authority | Tredegar Park, Newport, NP10
Online: [REDACTED] statistics.gov.uk | www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk | www.twitter.com/UKStatsAuth

 *Please consider the environment before printing this email*

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 25 September 2015 14:54
To: National Statistician
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Fw: Thursday Morning Colleagues (TMC) tomorrow morning
Attachments: Thursday Morning Colleagues - 24 September 2015.doc

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS on 25/09/2015 14:53 -----

From: Authority Meetings
To: DL_Directors@ONS, Robert Bumpstead/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jennet Woolford/TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]@exchange.ons.gov.uk, [REDACTED] TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, DL_Directors - Secretaries@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS
Date: 23/09/2015 17:23
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Thursday Morning Colleagues (TMC) tomorrow morning
Sent by: [REDACTED]

Dear all

Please see the attached note of bullet points for the Thursday Morning Colleagues meeting tomorrow morning.

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Kind regards

[REDACTED]

(See attached file: Thursday Morning Colleagues - 24 September 2015.doc)

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS on 23/09/2015 17:18 -----

From: Authority Meetings
To: DL_Directors@ONS, Robert Bumpstead/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jennet Woolford/TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]@exchange.ons.gov.uk,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, DL_Directors - Secretaries@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS
Date: 22/09/2015 14:18
Subject: Weekly bullet points for Thursday Morning Colleagues (TMC) meeting
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A reminder to send your weekly bullet points to the 'Authority Meetings' in-box by **no later than 3pm tomorrow** (Wednesday) please, and to ensure that they are kept as brief and concise as possible - not more than five bullet points in total for each directorate please. If you send any more than five, they may not all be included in the note.

When you return your bullet points, please also confirm a) whether you will be attending the meeting yourself or sending a deputy and b) what location you will join the meeting from.

Many thanks



8XG | Tel: [REDACTED] | Central Policy Secretariat | UK Statistics Authority | Tredegar Park, Newport, NP10
Online: [REDACTED] statistics.gov.uk | www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk | www.twitter.com/UKStatsAuth

 *Please consider the environment before printing this email*

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 25 September 2015 13:50
To: National Statistician
Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] CN=Robert Bumpstead/OU=LONDON/O=ONS@ONS
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Re: Not for further circulation: Notes from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s meetings in Lisbon

John,

Good feedback from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

On your points:

1) I think the SDDS+ point and credit rating agencies is a good one - there is a reference to the quality of economic data in this Moody's presentation ([http://www.pwc.be/en/pwc-academy/assets/pdf/ipsasevent/3\[REDACTED\]_transparency_in_government_reporting.pdf](http://www.pwc.be/en/pwc-academy/assets/pdf/ipsasevent/3[REDACTED]_transparency_in_government_reporting.pdf)) but I think we need to think carefully how we deploy it. I know HMT will be having regular conversations with the rating agencies, who may not have ever raised the issue, and we do not want to make it look like 'bleeding stumps'. So I think we need to present it as keeping UK in line with international best practice on data standards.

2) I think the international comparisons are really worthwhile in making the case - I think the [REDACTED] team themselves are quite keen to do that. That said, I am not sure comparisons will work with all our stakeholders as I think someone mentioned feedback from HMRC ([REDACTED] that they were not really interested in what other countries were doing and just focused on minimising any risks to UK tax collection.

3) Completely unaware of this, but good to find out what happened and whether we run any similar risks. Given the grief we have taken on Housing Associations and the Scottish projects, to be undermined by Eurostat would be very difficult. When discussing Scotland's issues with [REDACTED] he gave me the impression that Eurostat were as firm as ever. [REDACTED] any views?

[REDACTED]

Productivity did not really come up at all directly, but [REDACTED] was asking about the degree to which people thought there were big gaps in measuring output, which would potentially account for any measurement issues with productivity. The majority view was that most activity would be captured, but that there were issues with the concept of GDP that made capturing some things difficult e.g. travel agents (in GDP) being replaced by household activity (not in GDP).

Again with FRIBS, there wasn't much direct reference. But there was a lot of discussion about getting the 'data infrastructure' right and also the challenges of 'internationalisation', both relevant to FRIBS. I think [REDACTED] was generally bought in to this - if initially a little sceptical about what could be achieved.

Finally, I am afraid electronic data collection did not get much of a look in. The focus was admin data, though the Netherlands did talk about the issues of IT, electronic data collection and their Blaze tool.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ National Statistician--25/09/2015 11:43:31---Jonathan Thank you for sharing. The people who met [REDACTED] were very impressed that we had managed t

From: National Statistician
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: ██████████ LONDON/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Robert Bumpstead/LONDON/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 25/09/2015 11:43
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Re: Not for further circulation: Notes from ██████████'s meetings in Lisbon
Sent by: ██████████

Jonathan

Thank you for sharing. The people who met ██████████ were very impressed that we had managed to get a review of this type and enjoyed their conversations. ██████████ and ██████████ are already thinking how they will be able to use his report.

██████████ has also mentioned three things to me (not all ██████████ related) that are worthy of thought:

1. He has used the argument that investment in statistics is about protecting Ireland's international credit rating. This could be a good line for us since we will struggle to meet the SDDS+ standard unless we get our SR15 economics package delivered.
2. He said that when he was making the pitch for admin data he invited ██████████ from Denmark to come and make the case. Using strong case studies had opened the eyes of important people in Ireland. As you know, I too think this is the key for us too. If you have material we could get ██████████ working on please let him know.
3. He told me that he has had a bad time over the summer on classifications questions. It seems that Eurostat have been changing goalposts leaving him exposed with his government over decisions where he had stood firm on the rules-based system. This is very sensitive but could you discreetly find out from ██████████ if this is an issue we have come across before. I told ██████████ that we faced challenges from UK colleagues, including Scotland, but we're managing them. I had not experienced problems from Eurostat.

Hope you had a good journey back.
John

John Pullinger | National Statistician | UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ | Tel: ██████████
Email: national.statistician@statistics.gov.uk | Web: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk | Twitter: [@UKStatsAuth](https://twitter.com/UKStatsAuth)

From: ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: ██████████ LONDON/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, National Statistician@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Robert Bumpstead/LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 25/09/2015 11:34
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Re: Not for further circulation: Notes from ██████████'s meetings in Lisbon

Jonathan, excellent note and a tremendously rich set of conversations. Great idea to get ██████████ to Lisbon, and potentially very useful for getting support for what we want on admin data, flow of funds, London presence, business register etc. Nothing here on online data collection from businesses, productivity measurement or FRIBS?

██████████ | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Population and Public Policy |Office for National Statistics

Phone ██████████ | Mobile: ██████████ | Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG

Private Secretary: ██████████ | ██████████@ons.gsi.gov.uk | phone: ██████████

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: National Statistician@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ LONDON/ONS@ONS, Robert Bumpstead/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Date: 24/09/2015 14:53
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Not for further circulation: Notes from ██████████'s meetings in Lisbon

Dear all,

A quick read out from the Lisbon meetings that [REDACTED] had with various international colleagues. I have been fairly open in my read out, so ***not for further circulation.***

[attachment "Lisbon note.docx" deleted by [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS]

Happy to discuss further.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 24 September 2015 17:56
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

[REDACTED]

I hadn't seen these before today - and I think they are great. I do however fear they it will be a little long for journalists and some of our correspondents.

I also realise you are quite busy. Maybe the best thing would be for [REDACTED] to try and turn this into a one pager on the public/private angle including the consequences? And then we could comment on that?

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

24/09/2015 17:45:51---Hi Jonathan, That is absolutely fine although I think a lot of what you describe is already on the N

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 17:45
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

Hi Jonathan,

That is absolutely fine although I think a lot of what you describe is already on the [NA Classifications](#) web pages.

[This page](#) in particular does provide a comprehensive overview of the factors we take into account and explains that it classification is a statistical matter. There is also a diagram which neatly summarises the process we follow. I am not sure how much further we can cut this information down while still answering the points raised below in a way that is meaningful.

The only particular thing I can think of that is not explicitly spelled out is that classification to the public sectors is *not* the same as nationalisation (which is a matter of *legal* ownership of a body rather than *economic* ownership which underpins ESA).

I would also like to point out that the classifications pages were recently praised by the Scottish Information Commissioner for providing clear and approachable information which they found they could easily understand and use as "lay people". They also said they were impressed with the considerable transparency this content facilitates.

I am more than happy to draft supplementary content if it is necessary but I would be reluctant to duplicate content or to put something up which is too cut-down to be meaningful.

Please do let me know what you would like me to do.

██████████ | Head of National Accounts Classifications | na.classifications@ons.gov.uk

Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG
██████████ ons.gov.uk | ██████████

▼ Jonathan Athow---24/09/2015 16:55:46---██████████ Yes, that's fine - but grateful to be cc'ed.

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 16:55
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR ██████████ - Housing associations update and timeline

██████████
Yes, that's fine - but grateful to be cc'ed.

In advance of publication, I have also asked ██████████ in press office to work with you ██████████ to put together a one pager setting out what classification means and does not mean, and also summarising the factors we take into account. I think it would be a good thing to have on the web as we could point journalists and HAs to to describe the process. A clear and (as far as possible) non-technical explanation would be very useful.

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

'phone: ██████████ | mobile: ██████████ Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: ██████████ | ██████████ ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: ██████████

▼ ██████████ 24/09/2015 16:49:52---This also forms the substance for a draft email from me to ██████████ Are you also happy for me t

From: ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, ██████████ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 16:49
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR ██████████ - Housing associations update and timeline

This also forms the substance for a draft email from me to ██████████

Are you also happy for me to email ██████████ on this basis ?

Thanks

██████████
██████████
Director for National Accounts & Economic Statistics

Office for National Statistics
Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent, NP 10 8XG

T: ██████████ M: ██████████ E: ██████████ ons.gsi.gov.uk

▼ Jonathan Athow---24/09/2015 16:12:21---[REDACTED] Happy with this.

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 16:12
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

[REDACTED]

Happy with this.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ [REDACTED] 24/09/2015 14:56:11---Jonathan [REDACTED] office have asked for an update this afternoon on the housing associations work an

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 14:56
Subject: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

Jonathan

[REDACTED]'s office have asked for an update this afternoon on the housing associations work and the timeline. We have drafted the response below but I wanted to run this past you for any comments that you may have and so you were aware.

Could you please let me know if you are content for me to forward this to [REDACTED] I am currently in an audio meeting so cannot talk on the telephone.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Below is an update on the current housing association classification work and the emerging timeline. As you are aware there is a lot of external interest in this and we are working closely with the media team. Please let me know if there is any further information that you require.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

At our regular meetings yesterday (23 September), HM Treasury made us aware that providing a provisional classification decision on the proposed reforms to Housing Association regulations is now an urgent priority with a deadline of 6th October to feed into the mid October Housing Bill. This sudden increase in urgency will place significant strain on the NA Classification team and on the members of the National Accounts Classification Committee (NACC) - who cannot devote extra time to classifications without impacting other national accounts deliverables. Nevertheless, we will try our utmost to deliver what you need in this instance.

There are two classification decisions to be made:

1. The current classification of housing associations.
2. The impacts of the proposed deregulation reform plan.

We have been advised that HM Treasury would prefer to have an ONS view on the current classification before submitting the policy proposal to ONS for consideration. We are thus limited by that, and by the fact that time is needed for us to collate the information provided into "case documents" (one for each of the decisions above) for NACC to consider and challenge (which takes further time). The following timetable is being proposed, which should be achievable provided certain conditions are met:

- ONS will produce a case document based upon the research we have already undertaken and the controls table sent to us yesterday from HMT. This will be circulated to NACC members on Friday 26/9.
- NACC will meet to agree their recommended classification on Tuesday 29/9, which may mean that they have to work over the weekend. Provided NACC are able to reach a recommendation, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will consider and take the decision on the same day. We will then write to HM Treasury to outline the decision and the reasons for it.
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will meet with HM Treasury representatives early next week (either Monday 28th or Wednesday 30th, HM Treasury currently favour Wednesday) to gain an overview of the regulatory reform package proposed
- Following this, HM Treasury will provide full details of the regulatory reform package to ONS by CoP on 30/9.
- ONS will use the information provided to produce a case document for consideration by NACC and will circulate this to NACC members by CoP on 5/9 at the very latest. Please note, however, that this will only be achievable if the information provided on the policy proposal provides the detail required and is readily useable for the compilation of the case document.
- NACC members will require *at least* 2 days to digest the information before meeting to discuss. As such NACC will convene on 8/10 with the aim of reaching provisional advice on the classification which should be expected to follow if the policy is implemented as described.
- In accordance with our established processes, we will review the final outcome at such a time that the policy has been implemented to ensure a correct statistical recording once operational
-

There are risks associated with the process and timetable outlined above:

- (1) The quality of the housing associations case documents may be put at risk as the classification team will have limited time to prepare the case documents, which will require detailed understanding of the current and proposed housing associations government controls and relate these to ESA10 and MGDD guidance.
- (2) NACC members are generally sent case documents five days in advance of a NACC meeting as they have to consider the evidence and review the relevant guidance in the ESA10 and MDGG manuals. Reduced time to prepare increases the risk that NACC may not be able to reach a classification decision or reach the wrong decision.
- (3) There is a risk that further changes will be made to the policy proposals before they are included in the Housing Bill, and these could impact on the classification of housing associations that NACC will have not considered.

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 24 September 2015 16:56
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

[REDACTED]

Yes, that's fine - but grateful to be cc'ed.

In advance of publication, I have also asked [REDACTED] in press office to work with you [REDACTED] to put together a one pager setting out what classification means and does not mean, and also summarising the factors we take into account. I think it would be a good thing to have on the web as we could point journalists and HAs to to describe the process. A clear and (as far as possible) non-technical explanation would be very useful.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 16:49
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

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Are you also happy for me to email [REDACTED] on this basis ?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Director for National Accounts & Economic Statistics

Office for National Statistics

Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent, NP 10 8XG

T [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED] E: [REDACTED] [ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

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From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 16:12
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

Happy with this.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

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Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 14:56
Subject: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

Jonathan

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Dear [REDACTED]

Below is an update on the current housing association classification work and the emerging timeline. As you are aware there is a lot of external interest in this and we are working closely with the media team. Please let me know if there is any further information that you require.

Thanks

At our regular meetings yesterday (23 September), HM Treasury made us aware that providing a provisional classification decision on the proposed reforms to Housing Association regulations is now an urgent priority with a deadline of 6th October to feed into the mid October Housing Bill. This sudden increase in urgency will place significant strain on the NA Classification team and on the members of the National Accounts Classification Committee (NACC) - who cannot devote extra time to classifications without impacting other national accounts deliverables. Nevertheless, we will try our utmost to deliver what you need in this instance.

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[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 24 September 2015 16:12
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Fletcher, Miles; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

[REDACTED]

Happy with this.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

▼ [REDACTED] 24/09/2015 14:56:11---Jonathan [REDACTED]'s office have asked for an update this afternoon on the housing associations work an

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To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Miles Fletcher/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 24/09/2015 14:56
Subject: BRIEFING FOR [REDACTED] - Housing associations update and timeline

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[REDACTED]

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- (3) There is a risk that further changes will be made to the policy proposals before they are included in the Housing Bill, and these could impact on the classification of housing associations that NACC will have not considered.

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 23 September 2015 12:07
To: Holden, Vanessa
Subject: Fw: Review of Housing Association status

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] LONDON/ONS on 23/09/2015 12:06 -----

From: National Statistician
To: [REDACTED]@lqgroup.org.uk,
Date: 21/09/2015 17:13
Subject: Re: Review of Housing Association status
Sent by: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and offer of help. I have sent this on to the business area who are dealing with this.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary to the National Statistician
UK Statistics Authority | Central Policy Secretariat (CPS) | Statistics House | Cardiff Road | Newport NP10 8XG
Tel: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@statistics.gsi.gov.uk Web: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk Twitter: [@UKStatsAuth](https://twitter.com/UKStatsAuth)

---17/09/2015 09:22:28---To: John Pullinger CB Dear John,

From: [REDACTED]@lqgroup.org.uk
To: National Statistician@ONS, John Pullinger@ONS,
Date: 17/09/2015 09:22
Subject: Review of Housing Association status

To: John Pullinger CB

Dear John,


I am the [REDACTED], a charitable housing association which owns and manages 72,000 homes and which recently committed to a £12 billion 50,000 home investment programme, all financed without the support of government grant. We have our own construction arm, our own sales division and last year made a profit of £209 million all of which was reinvested in the provision of more affordable housing.

I also chair g15, a group of the largest fifteen housing associations in London. Together we house one in ten Londoners and have invested £15.4 billion of private money to provide almost 540,000 homes.

And I sit on the board of the National Housing Federation which last year published “An Ambition to Deliver”, a new vision for housing associations which commits us to doubling in size with the support of our private investors.

I am writing following the announcement that the ONS is currently reviewing the status of housing associations. Since the 1988 Housing Act housing associations have transformed their businesses, and by doing so, have transformed the places where we live. Together we have raised £76 billion of private money and invested in homes, services and communities. We are independent social businesses; our continued success depends very much on our ability to act independently and invest for the long term, guided by our social mission and values.

If there is anything I can do to help you in your assessment please do let me know.

 L&Q Housing Trust

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Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 18 September 2015 15:33
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fw: FOI2489

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the update - assuming this is standard practice, but can we make sure Media Relations are in the loop and aware of what the FOI will give out?

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

17/09/2015 18:05:04---FYI - John has agreed that the policy proposal material collated in response to the HA FoI can be re

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Date: 17/09/2015 18:05
Subject: Fw: FOI2489

FYI - John has agreed that the policy proposal material collated in response to the HA FoI can be removed. The other information does disclose that we are looking at the current classification of HAs.

Thanks

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS on 17/09/2015 18:01 -----

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, FOI Team@ONS, [REDACTED] TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS,
Cc: National Statistician@ONS
Date: 17/09/2015 12:48
Subject: Re: FOI2489

Hi both

Sorry for the delay. John gave me his response last night and he agrees with your assessment.

I have seen a note from Jonathan Athow about housing association classifications and I wondered whether there is any connection? I think [REDACTED] is already aware of this...

Thanks, [REDACTED]

▼ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 15/09/2015 10:42:34---My recommendation is that we disclose only the factual information and not policy proposal informati

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: FOI Team@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS
Date: 15/09/2015 10:42
Subject: Re: FOI2489

My recommendation is that we disclose only the factual information and not policy proposal information. This means that we would not disclose some of the pages in the document that HMT sent to us.

Thanks

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Government, Corporations and Classifications Division
Office for National Statistics

Tel: [REDACTED]

▼ FOI Team---15/09/2015 10:37:08---Good morning [REDACTED] I have just spoken to [REDACTED] re this FOI request, and she has asked

From: FOI Team
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, FOI Team@ONS
Date: 15/09/2015 10:37
Subject: FOI2489
Sent by: [REDACTED]

Good morning [REDACTED]

I have just spoken to [REDACTED] re this  FOI request, and she has asked what we (the FOI Team and the business area) are recommending as a response to the request.

From an FOI perspective I can say that the exemption is definitely engaged and I think the argument to withhold is stronger than that to release so that the public interest test is passed.

Can you reply to [REDACTED] and let her know what your recommendation is re disclosure?

Any problems let me know.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 17 September 2015 13:32
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Fw: Housing Associations

To see.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS on 17/09/2015 13:31 -----

From: [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
To: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Date: 17/09/2015 13:16
Subject: RE: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Housing Associations

Not ideal but thanks for the heads-up. In one sense the issue is out there as the OBR raised it in the summer budget.

On this we are likely to want a working level conversation this month on the package of reforms we are looking at to get at least a working level view before a NACC decision as it will shape our approach to various policies.

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, SW1A 2HQ | [REDACTED] | Blackberry [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

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www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

From: Jonathan Athow [<mailto:jonathan.athow@ons.gsi.gov.uk>]
Sent: 17 September 2015 12:40
To: [REDACTED] - HMT
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Housing Associations

[REDACTED]

I just wanted to let you know of a small issue we had with press handling on Housing Associations.

As you know the issue of Housing Association classification has been raised by the Right to Buy policy, etc. We have begun some preliminary work to understand the current arrangements for Housing Associations to put us in a better position to respond to any policy announcements or changes. Your classification colleagues should be aware of this.

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I am sorry this has come out in quite this way. As I said, this would have come out at the end of the month in the more ordered way.

██████ here has shared with ██████ the wording we put on the website.

Happy to discuss further.

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

'phone: ██████ | mobile: ██████ Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: ██████ | ██████ ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: ██████

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[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 17 September 2015 12:40
To: [REDACTED]@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Housing Associations

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED] here has shared with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the wording we put on the website.

Happy to discuss further.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 17 September 2015 12:29
To: National Statistician; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Fletcher, Miles; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Holden, Vanessa
Subject: [OFFICIAL SENSITIVE] - Housing Associations

John,

We spoke. I am afraid there is an issue that arose last night that I need to draw to your attention.

Background: as we have discussed previously, the issue of the classification of Housing Association has arisen due to Govt policy announcements on extending the 'right to buy' and decisions on capping rent rises in the social housing sector. We have not formally kicked off any work on reclassification from the policy change, but have been doing some work to understand the current arrangements for Housing Associations to allow us to be in a better place to do any work on reclassification once policy is clearer. Essentially we want to get the baseline right before any policy change. (Implicitly, we might conclude that even the current policy is enough to bring Housing Associations into the public sector.)

Issue: Yesterday a request on the current classification of Housing Associations came from Inside Housing. The response stated that we were preliminary work on the classification of Housing Associations and that this would be announced in the classification forward work plan to be published at the end of September; information that was not previously in the public domain. We are trying to piece together exactly what happened. We were alerted to this when the FT phoned up our press office last night asking us to confirm what was in the Inside Housing article. We have given them a form of words that confirms we are doing the preliminary work on the current arrangements. We are also put the same wording on the internet site. I think that covers us in terms of public line. We also contacted the classification policy lead at HMT so they were made aware.

The issue is we normally only update our workplan on classifications at the end of each month when we update our calendar/forward look. In addition, we put a lot of store by our ordered process for reviewing classifications. Releasing this statement to Inside Housing obviously breaks this practice.

This is all rather unfortunate. That said, the FT story was very straightforward. Miles and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will get to the bottom of what happened, and we will update you. As you said, we need to be proportionate here - we do not want an overly stern .

Stakeholder handling: Treasury know we are doing the work on Housing Associations, but will obviously not be that happy with the way in which this has got out. I was planning to drop [REDACTED] a short email saying what has happened. I don't want to over-dramatise this - we would have update our workplan at the end of Sept anyway, and we have an FOI that would have also disclosed we were working on this - but I do want to reassure them that we take this seriously and apologise for this.

Happy to discuss.

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

'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

██████████ ██████████

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 17 September 2015 09:11
To: ██████████ ██████████
Subject: Fw: Housing Associations

Draft email to ██████████ in HMT.

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

'phone: ██████████ | mobile: ██████████ Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: ██████████ ██████████ | ██████████ ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: ██████████

----- Forwarded by Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS on 17/09/2015 09:10 -----

From: Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS
To:
Date: 17/09/2015 08:42
Subject: Housing Associations

██████████

I just wanted to let you know of a small issue we had with press handling on Housing Associations.

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Yesterday, there were some crossed wires internally and we ended up disclosing this work had started to Inside Housing. When we spotted the issue, we put a short statement on the website and at least one journalist (from the FT) has asked about it. Other than Inside Housing, we cannot see any reporting of the issue.

I am sorry this has happened. As I said, this would have come out at the end of the month in the more ordered way.

██████████ ██████████ here has shared with ██████████ ██████████ the wording we put on the website.

Happy to discuss further.

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

'phone: ██████████ | mobile: ██████████ Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: ██████████ ██████████ | ██████████ ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: ██████████

[REDACTED]

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 01 September 2015 16:17
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fw: Fol - housing associations

And if I haven't replied already, nothing from me.

But pls keep me in the loop about what we plan to release given the sensitivity of this issue.

Jonathan Athow | Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics
'phone: [REDACTED] | mobile: [REDACTED] Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

Private secretary: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] ons.gsi.gov.uk | 'phone: [REDACTED]

01/09/2015 14:35:44---Hi [REDACTED] I don't believe I have had any correspondence with those bodies over the classification of h

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 01/09/2015 14:35
Subject: Re: Fw: Fol - housing associations

Hi [REDACTED]

I don't believe I have had any correspondence with those bodies over the classification of housing associations as it has all gone through the classifications team and I understand that the classifications team have already sent you all their external correspondence on the topic.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Government, Corporations & Classifications Division | Office for National Statistics | Government Buildings | Cardiff Road | Newport | Wales | NP10 8XG | Room 1.264 | Phone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]

---01/09/2015 14:08:52---All I gentle reminder of Friday's deadline.

From: [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS
To: [REDACTED] hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED] NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Date: 01/09/2015 14:08
Subject: Fw: Fol - housing associations

All

I gentle reminder of Friday's deadline.

Regards

█

█ Government, Corporations and Classifications|Office for National Statistics
Tel █ Working pattern - Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri)

----- Forwarded by █ /NEWPORT/ONS on 01/09/2015 14:07 -----

From: █ NEWPORT/ONS
To: █ hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk, █ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Jonathan Athow/LONDON/ONS@ONS, █
NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, █ NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: █ /NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 20/08/2015 11:59
Subject: Re: Fol - housing associations

Dear all

We have received a FoI in relation to any correspondence, or information shared, regarding the classification of housing associations as private bodies and/or public bodies between:

- ONS and Treasury
- ONS and the Cabinet Office
- ONS and DCLG
-

For the period January 2013 to 19 August 2015.

A response is required by 11 September. Can you please send any relevant correspondence, or information shared, to █ by 4 September.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss.

Thanks

█

From: Athow, Jonathan
Sent: 09 July 2015 13:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter on classification

Apologies but I have a tendency to fiddle with drafts. This letter has now come to me, but before I approve - I have tweaked the reply (see below). Are you happy?



Jonathan Athow
Deputy National Statistician, Economic
Statistics
Office for National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

Email: [REDACTED]@ons.gsi.gov.uk
Our Ref: 2015-39
Your Ref: CJCB/JT/BETT01002/01150496
Date:

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 24 June 2015.

ONS has not been consulted about the statistical impacts of a possible extension of the right to buy to cover tenants of housing association properties (including any possible impacts for the status of housing association debt). The ONS is required to maintain its independence in compiling official statistics. It does not therefore involve itself in the development of government policy or comment on what a policy in development would mean for economic statistics. Providing a 'running commentary' would risk compromising our ability to objectively establish the correct statistical impacts of such a policy if it were to be enacted.

However, the ONS does have a published process whereby government may submit fully-formed policy proposals to ask how they would be recorded in official statistics if implemented as described. We have not, as yet, received such a policy proposal on the extension of the right to buy for assessment. At such a time that HM Government submits a policy proposal, or the policy has been enacted, we will certainly consider implications for the economic ownership of housing associations' housing assets, associated liabilities, and indeed for housing associations themselves.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Athow