

Bank of England

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Ben Broadbent
Deputy Governor, Monetary Policy

24 October 2022

Dear Mike

Bank of England's request for pre-release access to the ONS's classification decisions on energy schemes – October 2022

The Bank of England continues to welcome all steps taken to ensure the integrity of official economic statistics and fully supports the decision to end regular pre-release access to ONS data.

As we have previously discussed, Part 2 of the Pre-Release access to Official Data Order 2008 provides for the National Statistician to grant exceptional pre-release access to particular Bank staff where, in his or her judgement, it is required for the Bank to discharge its policy functions most effectively. We agree that such access should be as transparent as possible.

As I wrote in my letter dated 2 March 2022, the Bank intends to write to the ONS on an annual basis requesting whatever pre-release access might be necessary for the Bank to discharge its policy functions over the following year, in light of the ONS's data release timetable and our own schedule of meetings of the Monetary Policy Committee

The content of this letter may be confidential. Please ensure you handle this information in accordance with the instructions set out in the Bank of England Information Security Classification Scheme available here: [b-o-e.uk/iscs](https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/iscs) or from the Bank upon request.

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(MPC). This letter covers a minor amendment to the Bank's previous request for pre-release access to official statistics in October 2022 in relation to the ONS's classification decisions for the treatment of the Government's Energy Price Guarantee (for Households) and the Energy Bills Relief Scheme (for businesses) in official economic statistics. I understand that you intend to announce these classification decisions on Monday 31 October.

Under the exceptional circumstances that these decisions are released in the same week that the MPC announces its policy decision, the Bank requests continued pre-release access for MPC members and a small number of Bank staff (those present at the MPC meeting itself and some members of the Governor's Private Office) to the following:

The classification decision on the treatment of the Energy Price Guarantee in consumer price statistics on Tuesday 25 October to allow staff to incorporate the information as part of the November MPC's updated forecast on Wednesday 26 October.

The classification decision on the treatment of the Energy Bills Relief Scheme in producer price statistics on Friday 28 October with pre-release access granted that the information is available for the MPC's meeting later that afternoon.

I am copying this letter to Alan Castle and Simon Kirby (Bank of England), Philip Wales (ONS).

Yours sincerely



Ben Broadbent