

Bank of England

Mike Keoghan

Deputy National Statistician
Office for National Statistics
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London
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Clare Lombardelli

Deputy Governor Monetary Policy

28 October 2024

By email only

Dear Mike

Bank of England's request for pre-release access to ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) statistics in October 2024

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.

The Bank writes 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 (MPC).

The ONS is set to release the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) data on Tuesday 29 October 2024, in the week prior to the MPC announcing its policy decision and publishing its Monetary Policy Report. The Bank requests pre-release access to the ASHE data for MPC members and a small number of Bank staff attending the MPC meeting on Monday 28 October

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at 2:30pm. This request is in addition to the set of pre-release access requests made by Ben Broadbent in his letter data 26 February 2024.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clare Lombardelli', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clare Lombardelli