



HM Treasury

HM Treasury  
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10 November 2023

Dear Mike,

**Subject: HM Treasury's request for pre-release access to ONS public sector productivity baselines in November 2023**

On June 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 the Chancellor asked the National Statistician, Sir Ian Diamond, to review how public sector productivity with departments is measured. You are publishing the first update to this review on 17 November, which will include new baseline estimates for public service productivity from 1997, including 2021 and 2022.

To support timely preparation for the Autumn Statement document we are asking the National Statistician to grant exceptional pre-release access to particular HMT staff where it is required of them to update the document and start preparing advice for the Chancellor of these baselines. HMT has a timetable for finalising Autumn Statement documents and pre-release access will allow any necessary adjustments to be made before text needs to be locked down.

The Autumn Statement 2023 will be delivered on 22 November. As stated above, the public sector productivity baselines will be published on 17 November, and to allow adequate time to prepare timely and high quality advice on policy decisions, HMT are requesting exceptional pre-release access to the publication on Thursday 16 November.

HMT welcomes all steps to ensure the integrity of official economic statistics and fully supports the decision to allow only a select few staff with exceptional pre-release access. This would consist of three HMT SCS and five HMT officials.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Cornelius**

Deputy Director, Cross-cutting Strategy, Insight & Reform