

Andrew Cornelius
Deputy Director, Cross-cutting Strategy, Insight and Reform
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Rd
London
SW1A 2HQ

By email

14 November 2023

HM Treasury's request for pre-release access to ONS Public Sector Productivity baselines, November 2023

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 10 November 2023 seeking exceptional pre-release for ONS' experimental statistics public services baselines publication, in advance of the 17 November to support the work of HM Treasury and timely preparation for the Autumn Statement.

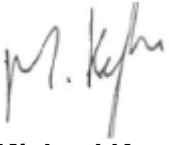
As you will be aware, when the then National Statistician announced an end to pre-release access to ONS statistics he said that 'Should there be a need for exceptional pre-release access to particular individuals for a specific release this would be fully transparent'. The overarching principle behind these arrangements is that we should work to ensure the integrity of our statistics but also recognise that in exceptional circumstances, the public benefit likely to result from limited pre-release access significantly outweighs the detriment to public trust in official statistics likely to result from such access.

On that basis, and having discussed this with the National Statistician, ONS grants you exceptional pre-release access, as requested, for the purposes of ensuring that the Autumn Statement can appropriately take account of these experimental statistics. To be specific:

- ONS will grant you pre-release access to the following datasets:
 - For total public service productivity and for service areas Healthcare, Education, Adult social care, Children's social care and Public order and safety: experimental 1997-2019 trend
 - For total public service productivity and Healthcare, Education and Public order and safety: experimental 2021 and 2022 nowcasts and associated confidence intervals.
 - These will be published at 09.30 on the 17 November 2023.
 - We will make these datasets available to you from 09.30 on 16 November 2023.
- We understand that you will limit the number of individuals who will have access to the data covered by this arrangement, and that you have already supplied the list of 6 officials and their positions, who will have pre-release access. This pre-release access will be for the purposes of producing and quality assuring your forecast(s).

I trust that these arrangements will prove satisfactory, but if you have any further questions or concerns, please come back to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Keohan', written in a cursive style.

Michael Keohan

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