



**BANK OF ENGLAND**

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**Ben Broadbent**

Deputy Governor Monetary Policy

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**By email only**

Dear Jonathan

**Bank of England's request for pre-release access to ONS statistics in 2020 - amendment to CPI and Labour Market data request - December 2020**

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 7 February 2020, 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 (MPC). This letter covers a minor amendment to the Bank's previous request for pre-release access to official statistics in December 2020 following a slight change in the timing of the MPC's discussion meeting on Monday 14 December.

As you are aware, the data contained within the Consumer Price Inflation and Labour Market Statistics releases are central to the Bank's assessment of the current economic outlook and so the MPC's monetary policy decision.

Under the exceptional circumstances that these data 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 very 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 Consumer Price Index release that falls on the:

1. 16<sup>th</sup> December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 09.30am on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December (previously 10.00).

The Labour Market Statistics release that falls on the:

1. 15<sup>th</sup> December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 09.30am on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December (previously 10.00).

I also have a request about timing: would it be possible to get these data 60 minutes before the start of the MPC meeting on the 14th (so at 8.30am)? We have previously agreed a lead time of 30 minutes. On occasion, however, this has proved insufficient to deal with the technical problems in processing the numbers that inevitably arise from time to time. An extra 30 minutes should ensure we can get the full information to the Committee in good time.

Yours sincerely



Ben Broadbent  
Deputy Governor, Monetary Policy