

Ben Broadbent
Deputy Governor Monetary Policy
Bank of England
Threadneedle St
London, EC2R 8AH

[by email]

4 March 2019

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 2019 seeking exceptional pre-release access to a number of economic statistics to support the work of the Bank of England and the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

For the purposes of exceptional pre-release of statistics, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) determines that an exceptional circumstance exists, whereby not granting pre-release access to statistics runs the risk of someone acting or making decisions in the public interest, or discharging policy functions, on the basis of out of date information.

On that basis, and having discussed this with the National Statistician, ONS grants exceptional pre-release access for the Bank of England, as requested, for the following statistics in 2019:

The Consumer Price Index releases that fall on the:

1. 20th March such that the data are available for the MPC's discussion meeting at 10.00am on Monday 18th March.
2. 19th June such that the data are available for the MPC's discussion meeting at 10.00am on Monday 17th June.
3. 18th September such that the data are available for the MPC's discussion meeting at 10.00am on Monday 16th September.
4. 18th December such that the data are available for the MPC's discussion meeting at 10.00am on Monday 16th December.

The Labour Market Statistics releases that fall on the:

1. 19th March such that the data are available for the MPC's discussion meeting at 10.00am on Monday 18th March.
2. 17th December such that the data are available for the MPC's discussion meeting at 10.00am on Monday 16th December.

We will send the Consumer Price Inflation and Labour Market Statistics to the Governor, 30 minutes prior to the start of the MPC meetings in question. This approach is consistent with previous practice where we have provided exceptional pre-release access to statistics for MPC meetings.

In accordance with the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008, ONS has accepted a declaration from the Bank of England that lists the individuals who will or may have access to the statistics, and outlines the requirement to maintain the confidentiality of the statistics.

In future years we will review dates with you to explore whether we can ensure sufficient distance between relevant ONS releases and MPC meetings to reduce the need for exceptional pre-release access.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Athow', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jonathan Athow

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