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By email

10 September 2020

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

Dear Ben

Thank you for your letter of 4 September seeking an amendment to CPI and Labour Market data exceptional pre-release for September 2020.

As outlined in previous letters, when the 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 being that an exceptional circumstance is where the public benefit likely to result from such 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, the ONS grants you exceptional pre-release access, as requested, for the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings for the following statistics:

The Consumer Price Index releases that fall on the:

1. 16th September with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 13.30pm on Friday 11th September (previously 14.00).
2. 16th December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 10.00am on Monday 14th December.

The Labour Market Statistics releases that fall on the:

1. 15th September with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 13.30pm on Friday 11th September (previously 14.00).
2. 15th December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's meeting at 10.00am on Monday 14th December.

We will send you the requested statistics 30 minutes prior to the start of the MPC meetings in question. This approach is consistent with previous practice where we have provided pre-

release access for MPC meetings.

Ahead of any pre-release access, the ONS will require the names of any and all individuals who will be accessing data ahead of publication.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Athow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Athow

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