



BANK OF ENGLAND

Jonathan Athow

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Ben Broadbent

Deputy Governor Monetary Policy

5 December 2019

By email only

Dear Jonathan

Bank of England's request for pre-release access to ONS statistics in 2019 – amendment to CPI and Labour Market data request – December 2019

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 her or his 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 10 June 2019, the Bank intends to write to the ONS, on an annual basis, requesting whatever pre-release access, if any, 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 request for pre-release access to official statistics in December 2019 following a slight change in the timing of the MPC's discussion meeting on Monday 16 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 Consumer Price Index releases that fall on the:

1. 18 December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's discussion meeting at 9.00am on Monday 16 December.

The Labour Market Statistics releases that fall on the:

1. 17 December with pre-release access granted such that the data are available for the MPC's discussion meeting at 9.00am on Monday 16 December.

While unlikely, it is possible that the timing of this MPC meeting may need to be adjusted during the course of this month, for instance to accommodate senior Bank staff's attendance at international meetings. If that occurs in a way that affects our need for exceptional pre-release access in any way, we will of course let you know straightaway.

Yours sincerely

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

Ben Broadbent
Deputy Governor, Monetary Policy