

Ben Broadbent  
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London  
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By email

18 October 2023

### **Bank of England request for pre-release access to ONS statistics**

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2023 seeking exceptional pre-release for Labour Market statistics to support the work of the Bank of England and the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

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, to produce forecasts and prepare the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) report for the following statistics:

- A01 – summary of Labour market statistics
- LFS Monthly outputs
- These will be published at 07:00 on the 24 October.
- We will make these datasets available to you from 13:00 on Thursday 19 October.
- We understand that you will limit the number of individuals who will have access to the data covered by this arrangement. Before access is granted, we ask that you supply to us the names and the positions of those who will have pre-release access, both for the purposes of producing and quality assuring your forecast.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Michael Keoghan**

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

