

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

By email

24 October 2022

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

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October 2022 seeking exceptional pre-release access to our classification decisions to support the work of the Bank of England.

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, for the purposes of incorporating this information into your preparations for your MPC Draft forecast meeting on Wednesday 26 October, and for the MPC meeting to be held on Friday 28 October 2022. To be specific, ONS will grant you pre-release access to:

- The classification decision on the treatment of the Energy Price Guarantee and the Energy Bills Relief Scheme in the National Accounts and the Public Sector Finances – at midday on Tuesday 25 October.
- The proposed measurement approach for these schemes in consumer prices statistics – including the CPI, CPIH and the RPI – at midday on Tuesday 25 October.
- The proposed measurement approach for these schemes in producer prices statistics – including the PPIs – at midday on Friday 28 October.

Thank you for providing the names of the individuals who will have access to the above information. Please limit the pre-release access to this group only until after publication on 31 October 2022.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Michael Keohan

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