

Robert Chote
Chairman
Office for Budget Responsibility
By email

13 February 2020

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January 2020 February seeking exceptional pre-release for Labour Market statistics to support the work of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).

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, we are happy to grant you exceptional pre-release access as requested to enable you to provide HM Treasury with the third round of your economic forecast on 18 February 2020. The request covers one statistical release;

48 hours pre-release access to:

1. Labour Market statistics due to be published on 18 February 2020

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

Requests for pre-release access continue to be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Athow

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