
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir David Norgrove

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By email only

15 June 2017

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 15 June, in which you explained that you plan to end pre-release access to official statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

As you know, the UK Statistics Authority does not believe Government Ministers and officials should be provided with access to statistics before they are made available to Parliament and to members of the public.¹ Equality of access to official statistics is a fundamental principle of statistical good practice, and the existence of pre-release access undermines trust in our official statistics system.

The Authority Board therefore warmly welcomes your plans to end pre-release access to official statistics produced by ONS, as of 1 July 2017.

Yours ever,

**Sir David Norgrove**

¹ UK Statistics Authority (2015): [Better Statistics, Better Decisions: Strategy for UK Statistics 2015-2020](#)