

Subject: Response to Consultation on Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics

I am responding to the invitation in PN 141/07, and the consultation document itself, to comment on the Government's proposals in the above area.

I welcome these proposals, as appropriate and proportionate. I say this as a former member of the Government Statistical Service and of the Senior Civil Service - responsible at different stages in my career for statistics on unemployment, pay, industrial disputes and the RPI/TPI.

I would, however, have liked to see the draft Order make some reference to penalties for breaking the embargo; and also make it explicit (if it is not already) that pre-release of statistics will be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

I should be grateful if your office could pass this response on to the relevant official - I could not see in the documentation an address for replies to this consultation.

Many thanks

Alan Davies