

Ben BroadbentDeputy Governor Monetary Policy
Bank of England**Sent via email**25th January 2024**Bank of England's request for exceptional pre-release access to ONS National population projections, January 2024**

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter of 23rd January 2024 seeking exceptional pre-release access to ONS National population projections: 2021-based interim release.

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, ONS grants you exceptional pre-release access to ONS National population projection data, as requested, for the purpose of informing the Monetary Policy Reports to ensure they accurately reflect developments in population growth, to ensure the overall credibility of monetary policy is maintained. To be specific:

- ONS will grant you pre-release access to the following statistics:
 - National population projections: 2021-based interim release
- ONS will make these statistics available to you on 26th January, ahead of the public release on 30th January at 9:30am.
- We understand that you will limit the number of individuals who will have access to the statistics covered by this arrangement, and that you have already supplied the list of officials, their positions and the specific decision-making purpose for which the pre-release access will be utilised by these officials.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Emma Rourke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emma Rourke

Deputy National Statistician, Population, Health and Methods
Office for National Statistics