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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Ein cyf / Our ref: AD/05146/09

Sir Michael Scholar KCB
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority
1 Myddelton Street
London
EC1R1UW

17 September 2009

Dear Michael,

DRAFT PRE-RELEASE ACCESS TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS (WALES) ORDER 2009

Thank you for your letter dated 7 August 2009 in response to our consultation on the draft *Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Wales) Order 2009*.

From your letter and previous correspondence on this topic, we understand the Statistics Authority's views regarding pre-release access. However it is our view that ensuring the Ministers are able to make informed and authoritative comments on the statistics concerning policy areas for which they are responsible, at or soon after the release of the statistics, is part of good government.

We have followed with interest the dialogue between yourself and the Scottish Government on this matter. While our draft order largely mirrors that of Scotland, proposing no change from our current pre-release access time, we look forward to the reviews of the impact of the new arrangements across the UK. The findings from these will no doubt prompt further discussion on this issue and will provide all of us with an opportunity to learn from each department's experience before confirming longer term plans.

We look forward to the Statistics Authority's review and assessment of the pre-release orders, including any observations you may make of the impact of Wales order.

Yours
Andrew

UK Statistics Authority
London

24 SEP 2009

Received

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