

Alan Clarke
Head of Fixed Income Strategy Europe
Scotiabank
201 Bishopsgate
London
EC2M 3NS

22 November 2013

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the UKSA Monitoring Review 7/13 dated October 2013. I was concerned by some of the suggestions that were made in the review. In particular, the recommendation in paragraph 6 on page 3 regarding staggering the release of individual ONS press releases such as the CPI and RPI inflation data. To release the headline data at 09:30, followed by some text at 10:00 then the detailed tables at 10:30 strikes me as extremely counterproductive.

- If the root cause of the problem is that the ONS website gets jammed with traffic, surely it is preferable to address this issue by upgrading the website?
- Drip-feeding the press release over the period of an hour has the potential for provoking unnecessary uncertainty and financial market volatility.
- You state in paragraph 4 on page 2 that the ONS does not seem to have had any complaints on this issue – why try to fix a problem that does not exist?
- The UK would be the only major economy that I am aware of to release statistics in this way. If other countries can manage to publish economic statistics in one single release, why can't the UK?
- Indicators such as the CPI are published across numerous media (twitter, facebook, on television etc). It strikes me that there is no tangible impediment to accessing the key market moving headline figures which may be considered time sensitive.

I concede that at times the ONS website has been slow and caused me delay in accessing the full breakdown of the data. I very much welcome any initiative that could improve that process. My suggestion would be to also publish the full press release on the UKSA or the www.gov.uk website temporarily over the 1-2 hours following a press release when the traffic on the ONS website is at its most intense. This could alleviate some of the pressure on the ONS website.

With technological developments running at such a rapid pace, there is every chance that the problem with traffic jam on the ONS website is naturally overcome over time. Thus to have implemented staggering of data releases could ultimately prove to have been unnecessary.

Yours Sincerely,
Alan Clarke