



Public Administration Select Committee (PASC)

Committee · Office · House of Commons · 7 Millbank · London SW1P 3JA
Tel 020 7219 3284 Fax 020 7219 2681 Email pasc@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/pasc

Sir Andrew Dilnot
Chair, UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

31 January 2014

Dear Andrew

Pre-release: GDP figures

You will be aware of the press coverage on the morning of 28 January about the release of the GDP figures later that day. Given that pre-release allows some officials and ministers to see this data 24 hours in advance, it is unsurprising that there is a suspicion amongst some that unauthorised briefings may have been given; and it is impossible for the Government to disprove this. This reinforces Committee's views about the weaknesses of the pre-release system and undermines public confidence in pre-release, statistics and the use of evidence more generally.

I am copying this letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon George Osborne MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP and the Cabinet Secretary Sir Jeremy Heywood.

Yours ever
B Jenkin

Bernard Jenkin MP
Chairman of PASC