
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

Alan Clarke
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Dear Mr Clarke

PUBLISHING STATISTICAL RELEASES AT 0930

Thank you for your letter of 22 November 2013 concerning the UK Statistics Authority's monitoring review, *Issuing ONS Market Sensitive Statistics at 09:30*. The focus of the review was to investigate the issue that ONS has sometimes been unable to issue statistical releases, and related statistical tables, at exactly 09:30, as required by the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, and to offer suggestions to resolve the problem.

It remains an overriding priority for the UK Statistics Authority, and ONS, to ensure that the ONS website improves at pace and in full consultation with users. As the monitoring review sets out, the publication of statistics at a standard time is right in principle, and the Authority remains committed to this.

I note your concern about the possibility of 'staggering' the publication of elements of statistical releases. This was not a recommendation, but one possible option for ONS to consider. The report recognised that this would be a significant change of practice which could only follow consultation with users. Any such approach would need to be temporary, pending further improvement to the ONS website, and would need to ensure that it did not disadvantage any particular user.

The Authority remains committed to the principle of equality of access.

We have noted your other detailed points and I have passed on your letter and my reply to the ONS Director General so that these may be considered further.

Yours sincerely



Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE