
Rachel Skentelbery, Deputy Head of Profession for Statistics

Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
Office for Statistics Regulation
(by email)

23 March 2023

Dear Ed,

Alternative Release Time for Public Sector Classification Guide and Forward Work Plan

I am writing to formally request an alternative to the 9:30am release time relating to the publication of the Public Sector Classification Guide and Forward Work Plan. I am grateful for your consideration of bringing forward the release time from 9:30am to 7:00am on 28 April 2023.

The exemption to the release time from 9:30am to 7:00am is necessary as on 28 April 2023 we will be publishing the outcome of our classification review of the Energy Bills Discount Scheme in the UK, which may have an impact on data that could be market sensitive. The above publication will be released at the same time as a media statement which will include the classification of the Energy Bills Discount Scheme, and also explain whether there is any impact on inflation statistics.

We therefore wish to publish outside of UK market hours, to ensure an orderly release with equal access to information, prior to the time the UK markets open.

This request relates only to the April 2023 publication, and we expect future releases of the Public Sector Classification Guide and Forward Work Plan to adhere to the standard release time of 9:30am.

I would be grateful for confirmation that you are content to grant this alternative release time.

I am copying this request to Michael Keoghan, Deputy National Statistician & Director General for the Economic, Social and Environmental Statistics Group (ESEG) at ONS.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Skentelbery
Deputy Head of Profession for Statistics, ONS