

Pre-release access to official statistics policy

Openness and transparency are at the heart of our statistical work. Our statistics are made available to all users at the same time. Some individuals receive pre-release access to our statistics for specific purposes and this policy explains those arrangements. In developing this policy, we have taken into account the relevant protocols in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). As Lead Official for Statistics, our Director for Statistics and Analysis is responsible for granting pre-release access.

Pre-release access for production and publication purposes

A small number of individuals have access to our statistics, either during the production phase or in their final form, for production, quality assurance, and publication purposes. This is usually limited to our statisticians, web publishing team and translators.

In some situations, individuals from data management or policy teams may have access to limited parts of our statistics for quality assurance purposes.

Individuals who receive pre-release access for production, quality assurance, and publication purposes are not included on our pre-release access lists.

Pre-release access to statistics in their final form

As a producer of official statistics, we grant limited pre-release access to our statistics in their final form according to the rules set out in the [Pre-release Access to Official Statistics \(Wales\) Order 2009](#).

Pre-release access is provided 24 hours before the statistics are published. It is provided so that individuals can comment or respond to queries on the statistics at the time of publication based on a correct understanding of them.

We publish a list of organisations and job titles which receive pre-release access alongside each of our statistical publications. These lists are regularly reviewed with the number of individuals kept to a minimum.

Pre-release access includes a statement reminding individuals of their responsibilities, including not forwarding on or reporting on the contents of the statistics before publication. Pre-release access is granted via a secure, permissions controlled file exchange portal to minimise the risk of accidental onward sharing.