

Dear Sir,

Today will see the publication of the monthly labour market statistics - the only set to be issued during the election campaign. They're economically important, politically valuable and, of course, market-sensitive.

At the Royal Statistical Society, we believe it's wrong that such data gets seen by 114 Ministers, officials and advisers before being officially released. It's politically unfair, encourages media 'spin' and erodes trust in official statistics. There's also the potential risk of public data being leaked for private gain.

Such 'pre-release access' is unnecessary and should, quite simply, be abolished. The RSS proposes that official statistics should be released to everyone at exactly the same time - from next month onwards.

Yours sincerely,

Hetan Shah
Executive Director of the Royal Statistical Society

