
Jil Matheson National Statistician | Ystadegydd Gwladol

Valerie Isham
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Dear Valerie

CONSULTATION ON THE RETAIL PRICES INDEX (RPI)

I was surprised to receive your letter of 28 September, which I understand has been published on the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) website.

Given the amount of information already in the public domain it's important to be open, transparent and give all users the opportunity to express their views. The consultation period is sufficient to enable that and we are of course happy, as always, to engage with users. A public consultation meeting is being arranged.

Now is the right time to consult. As is consistent with good statistical practice, price statistics are regularly reviewed and this is reflected in the Office for National Statistics' work programme. There is now sufficient evidence to consult on the key issue for this consultation - the formula used for elementary aggregation in the RPI.

I am copying this letter to Andrew Dilnot, Glen Watson, Caron Walker, Derek Bird and to Jill Leyland who I know has a close interest in this area.

Yours sincerely



Jil Matheson