



**CDU-POL-001\_Annex 1**

**Pre-Release Access Agreement between the National Statistics  
Office and the Ministry for Finance and Employment**

**July 2022**

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## Pre-Release Access Agreement between the National Statistics Office and the Ministry for Finance and Employment

<b>Title of Agreement</b>	Pre-Release access agreement between the National Statistics Office (hereinafter referred to as NSO) and Ministry for Finance and Employment (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry).
<b>Agreement Reference</b>	CDU-POL-001_Annex 1
<b>Purpose</b>	This agreement is based on the Dissemination Policy CDU-POL-001 of the NSO. This agreement allows the Ministry restricted pre-release access as established by the NSO. The releases will be provided not more than one working day before publication and are meant to serve for information purposes only.
<b>Name of releases and frequency of dissemination</b>	Annexed to this agreement
<b>Ministry for Finance and Employment - recipients</b>	<b>The Hon. Minister:</b> Mr Clyde Caruana <b>Permanent Secretary:</b> Mr Paul Zahra <b>Head of Secretariat:</b> Ms Angela Buttigieg
<b>Entry into force</b>	4 July 2022
<b>Review of agreement</b>	This agreement shall expire on the 4 July 2023. Review of the agreement shall be set two months before the expiry date.
<b>Agreement owner</b>	NSO
<b>Agreement drawn up by:</b>	NSO

### DOCUMENT VERSION RECORD

Version Number	Amendments Made	Authorisation
2.0	Change in Permanent Secretary	Mr Etienne Caruana



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The NSO is responsible for collecting, producing, and disseminating statistical information in an independent, objective and transparent way. This necessitates that users of data are all treated equitably.

The European Statistics Code of Practice states that all users without exception are to have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Additionally, the Code lays down that any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. There may be matters of national importance that are impacted by the content of news releases. In such cases, restricted pre-release access may be granted to a limited number of persons in high-level positions whose area of responsibility encompasses such matters. This will provide sufficient time for these persons to consider the new statistical information and to prepare adequate responses to the media and main stakeholders.

## 2.0 PURPOSE

The aim of this agreement is to provide designated persons within the Ministry restricted pre-release access to news releases not more than 1 working day before publication, for information purposes only.

## 3.0 DESIGNATED PERSONS

3.1 The designated persons that can have pre-release access to news releases are:

- a) The Hon. Minister for Finance and Employment  
Mr Clyde Caruana  
**Address:** Ministry for Finance and Employment, 30, Maison Demandols, South Street, Valletta, VLT 1102
  
- b) The Permanent Secretary  
Mr Paul Zahra  
**Address:** Ministry for Finance and Employment, 30, Maison Demandols, South Street, Valletta, VLT 1102
  
- c) Head of Secretariat  
Ms Angela Buttigieg  
**Address:** Ministry for Finance and Employment, 30, Maison Demandols, South Street, Valletta, VLT 1102

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3.2 Any changes in the designated persons who have pre-release access to news releases are to be communicated in writing to the NSO after being approved by the Minister.

**4.0 BASIS FOR SHARING**

4.1 The Ministry shall ensure that the rules governing pre-release access shall be adhered to.

4.2 News releases' content shall be strictly embargoed until the official time of dissemination and hence, will be labelled as restricted'. Any information contained in the news release shall not be divulged to third parties prior to the official publication of the news release by the NSO.

4.3 News releases shall be shared via One Drive to the designated persons only.

4.4 In the eventuality that the NSO would be unable to provide a news release within the stated timeframe, the NSO shall duly notify the Ministry.

**5.0 TERMINATION AND RECORDING**

5.1 The Ministry shall take all the necessary measures to ensure that the information provided under this agreement is kept strictly confidential.

5.2 This agreement will be terminated should the pre-release access information be provided to unauthorised third parties, leaked or otherwise misused.

5.3 Either Party can terminate this agreement by communicating its intention in writing to the other Party.

5.4 A log containing pre-release access information will be maintained by the NSO, recording the type of information disseminated, to whom and the date and time it was provided. This data may be published by the NSO for transparency purposes as per international obligations emanating from the European Statistics Code of Practice.

**6.0 REVIEW TERMS**

6.1 This agreement is valid for 12 calendar months from the date of entry into force.

6.2 The agreement may be reviewed upon expiration. In the event of a review, this shall be set two months before the expiry date.



Signed on behalf of the NSO

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Mr Etienne Caruana  
Director General

Signed on behalf of the Ministry

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Mr. Clyde Caruana  
The Hon. Minister for Finance and Financial Services

Date: 4 July 2022

**List of News Releases covered by this Pre-release access agreement**

Name	Section	Frequency
Direct Investment in Malta and Abroad	Balance of Payments	Bi-Annual
International Economic and Financial Transactions	Balance of Payments	Quarterly
International Investment Position of Malta	Balance of Payments	Annual
Business Innovation	Business Register, Research and Innovation	Annual
Registered Business Units	Business Register, Research and Innovation	Annual
International Trade in Goods	International Trade	Monthly
ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises	Labour Market and Information Society	Annual
ICT usage by households	Labour Market and Information Society	Annual
Accidents at work	Labour Market and Information Society	Bi-Annual
Fatalities at work	Labour Market and Information Society	Sporadic
Key Indicators on the Labour Market	Labour Market and Information Society	Annual
Labour Force Survey	Labour Market and Information Society	Quarterly
Registered Employment	Labour Market and Information Society	Monthly
Registered Unemployment	Labour Market and Information Society	Monthly
Unemployment Rate	Labour Market and Information Society	Monthly
Gross Domestic Product	National Accounts	Quarterly
Non-financial Accounts by Institutional Sector	National Accounts	Annual
Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices	Price Statistics	Monthly
Property Price Index	Price Statistics	Annual
Retail Price Index	Price Statistics	Monthly
Expenditure of General Government Sector by Function	Public Finance	Annual
Government Debt and Deficit under the Maastricht Treaty, first reporting	Public Finance	Bi-Annual
Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits	Public Finance	Quarterly
Government Finance Data	Public Finance	Monthly
Pension Entitlements	Public Finance	Annual
Public Corporations	Public Finance	Annual
Quarterly Accounts for General Government	Public Finance	Quarterly
Research and Development in Malta	Public Finance	Annual
Structure of General Government Debt	Public Finance	Annual
Tax Revenues	Public Finance	Annual
Regional Gross Domestic Product	Regional, Geospatial, Energy and Transport	Annual
Regional Labour Supply by Place of Residence and Work	Regional, Geospatial, Energy and Transport	Annual
Index of Industrial Production	Short-term Statistics	Monthly
Industrial Producer Price Indices	Short-term Statistics	Monthly
Short-term Industrial Indicators	Short-term Statistics	Quarterly
Short-term Services Indicators	Short-term Statistics	Quarterly
Structural Business Statistics	Structural Business Statistics	Annual