

CDU-POL-001_Annex 1

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

18 June 2026

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

Title of Agreement	Pre-Release agreement between the National Statistics Office (hereinafter referred to as NSO) and Ministry for Finance (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry).
Agreement Reference	CDU-POL-001_Annex 1
Purpose	This agreement is based on the Dissemination Policy CDU-POL-001 of the NSO. This agreement allows the Ministry pre-release access under embargo 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.
Name of releases and frequency of dissemination	Annexed to this agreement
Ministry for Finance and Financial Services - recipients	The Hon. Minister: Mr Clyde Caruana (ID No. [REDACTED]) Permanent Secretary: Mr Paul Zahra (ID No. [REDACTED]) Head of Secretariat: Ms Leanne Camilleri (ID no. [REDACTED])
Entry into force	18 June 2026
Review of agreement	This agreement shall expire on the 17 June 2027. Review of the agreement shall be set two months before the expiry date.
Agreement owner	NSO
Agreement drawn up by:	NSO

DOCUMENT VERSION RECORD

Version Number	Amendments Made	Authorisation
2.00	Change in Permanent Secretary	Mr Etienne Caruana
2.01	Renewal	Mr Etienne Caruana
2.02	Renewal	Mr Etienne Caruana
2.03	Renewal and Change in Personnel	Mr Etienne Caruana
2.04	Renewal	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, pre-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 access to news releases are:

- a) The Hon. Minister for Finance,
Mr Clyde Caruana
ID Card: [REDACTED]
Address: Ministry for Finance, 30, Maison Demandols, South Street, Valletta, VLT 1102
- b) The Permanent Secretary
Mr Paul Zahra
ID Card: [REDACTED]
Address: Ministry for Finance, 30, Maison Demandols, South Street, Valletta, VLT 1102
- c) Head of Secretariat
Ms Leanne Camilleri
ID Card: [REDACTED]
Address: Ministry for Finance, 30, Maison Demandols, South Street, Valletta, VLT 1102

3.2 Any changes in the designated persons who have 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 'draft' and 'confidential'. 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



Mr Etienne Caruana
Director General – National Statistics Office

Signed on behalf of the Ministry



Mr Clyde Caruana
The Hon. Minister for Finance

Date:

15/7/2026

Name of releases and frequency of dissemination

Title of News' Release	Frequency
Direct Investment in Malta and Abroad	Bi-Annual
International Economic and Financial Transactions	Quarterly
International Investment Position of Malta	Annual
Business Innovation	Annual
Registered Business Units	Annual
International Trade in Goods	Monthly
Key Indicators on the Labour Market	Annual
Labour Force Survey	Quarterly
Registered Employment	Monthly
Registered Unemployment	Monthly
Unemployment Rate	Monthly
Gross Domestic Product	Quarterly
Non-financial Accounts by Institutional Sector	Annual
Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices	Monthly
Property Price Index	Annual
Retail Price Index	Monthly
Residential Property Transactions	Monthly
Expenditure of General Government Sector by Function	Annual
Government Debt and Deficit under the Maastricht Treaty, first reporting	Bi-Annual
Government Expenditure on Social Security Benefits	Quarterly
Government Finance Data	Monthly

Pension Entitlements	Annual
Public Corporations	Annual
Quarterly Accounts for General Government	Quarterly
Research and Development in Malta	Annual
Structure of General Government Debt	Annual
Tax Revenues	Annual
Regional Gross Domestic Product	Annual
Regional Labour Supply by Place of Residence and Work	Annual
Index of Industrial Production	Monthly
Industrial Producer Price Indices	Monthly
Short-term Industrial Indicators	Quarterly
Short-term Services Indicators	Quarterly
Residential Building Permits	Quarterly
Structural Business Statistics	Annual

