



CDU-POL-001_Annex 3

**Pre-Release Agreement between the National Statistics Office
and the Retail Price Index Advisory Board**

January 2025

Pre-Release Agreement between the National Statistics Office and the Retail Price Index Board

Title of Agreement	Pre-Release agreement between the National Statistics Office (hereinafter referred to as NSO) and the Retail Price Index Advisory Board (hereinafter referred to as the Advisory Board).
Agreement Reference	CDU-POL-001_Annex 3
Purpose	<p>This agreement is entered into on <u>15 Feb 2025</u>, between Mr Etienne Caruana, Director General of the National Statistics Office and Dr Carl Camilleri, Chairman of the Retail Price Index Advisory Board on behalf of all members and is based on the Dissemination Policy CDU-POL-001 of the NSO.</p> <p>This agreement allows the Board pre-release access under embargo as established by the NSO. The releases and additional information will be provided not more than two working days before publication.</p> <p>The pre-access of NSO's news release shall remain under embargo until publication while any supplementary information disseminated for meeting purposes shall remain confidential, before publication, and at any time thereafter.</p>
Name of releases and frequency of dissemination	Annexed to this agreement
RPI Advisory Board Recipients	All members of the Advisory Board as appointed by the Minister for Finance and Employment and published in the government gazette.
Entry into force	This agreement remains valid for a period of twelve calendar months coming into force today the <u>15 Feb 2025</u> .
Review of agreement	This agreement shall expire on <u>14 Feb 2028</u> . 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	New Agreement	Mr Etienne Caruana
2.01	New Agreement following new appointments to the Board	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. However, whenever privileged pre-release access is granted by the National Statistics Office, this is done only in circumstances where the public shall seek to gain from such measure while the risks of dampening confidence in official statistics are considered as negligible.

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. The Retail Price Index Advisory Board is composed of technical advisors and socio-economic stakeholders. Pre-access to these Members is granted under embargo, enabling them to discern the information provided prior the issuance of the new release, with the objective of organising an informative advisory meeting.

Any media statements on part of the Retail Price Index Advisory Board are to be made through the Chairman or his delegate.

2.0 CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

Those persons who are given access to statistical information in advance of official dissemination by the NSO must keep the statistics secure and under embargo, and they must abide by certain conditions of access. They must avoid:

- disclosing the statistics or any part of a publication containing those statistics to any person not listed as a pre-release recipient,
- providing any indication of the size or direction of any trend revealed by the statistics, including general statements such as “favourable” or “unfavourable”,
- using such access for personal gain, or taking any action for political advantage, and
- exploiting such access to change or compromise the content, presentation, or timing of publication of official statistics.

3.0 DOCUMENTATION AND PUBLICATION

In the interests of openness and transparency the pre-access agreement will be made public on the NSO website.

4.0 PURPOSE

The aim of this agreement is to provide designated persons within the Advisory Board restricted pre-release access to news releases and related additional information not more than 2 working days before publication, for information purposes only.

5.0 BASIS FOR SHARING

- 5.1 The Advisory Board shall ensure that the rules governing pre-release access shall be adhered to.
- 5.2 News releases' content shall be strictly embargoed until the official time of dissemination. All information pertaining to the news releases is considered 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.
- 5.3 The pre-access of NSO's news release shall remain under embargo until publication while any supplementary information disseminated for meeting purposes shall remain confidential, before publication, and at any time thereafter.
- 5.4 If deemed necessary, news releases may be shared via One Drive.
- 5.5 Designated persons who gain access to information not generally available to the public, shall not divulge such Information without the prior consent of the Director General (NSO).
- 5.6 In the eventuality that the NSO would be unable to provide a news release within the stated timeframe, the NSO shall duly notify the Advisory Board.

6.0 TERMINATION AND RECORDING

- 6.1 The Advisory Board shall take all the necessary measures to ensure that the information provided under this agreement is kept strictly confidential.
- 6.2 This agreement will be terminated in the event of a breach of the pre-release agreement. A breach consists of but is not limited to the dissemination, leaking and misuse of information made available to the Advisory Board to unauthorised third parties.
- 6.3 Either Party can terminate this agreement by communicating its intention in writing to the other Party.

6.4 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.

7.0 REVIEW TERMS

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

7.2 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 RPI Board



Dr Carl Camilleri
Chairman

Date: 25/02/2025

Name of releases and frequency of dissemination

Title of News' Release	Frequency
Retail Price Index	Monthly