

Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics

In Northern Ireland the Minister of Finance and Personnel (as Minister responsible for statistics) brought forward an Order which sets out the rules and principles governing the conditions under which Northern Ireland Ministers and others may receive pre-release access to Northern Ireland devolved statistics in their final form. [The Pre-release Access To Official Statistics Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2009](#) came into operation on 1st April 2009 and includes details of when pre-release can occur, who is entitled to access, for how long and under what conditions.

The key elements of the legislation are:

- Limiting pre-release access to a strict maximum of 24 hours;
- requiring that pre-release access be limited to the minimum necessary number of people and the minimum number of statistics; and
- requiring that, where pre-release access is granted, it shall be done in an open and transparent manner, with details documented and published.

The PSNI's National Statistics are published annually for each financial year in May and are subject to these pre-release restrictions.