

Office for Budget Responsibility: release policy – March 2015 update

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has complete discretion over the material it publishes in fulfilling its remit, including the amount of detail that is published in response to requests for information.

We are committed to transparency in forecasting and will release the majority of our forecast information as part of our official economy and public finance forecast publications. We will respond to any requests to explain or clarify the published forecasts promptly on an ongoing basis.

We will as far as possible also meet ongoing requests to release supplementary forecast information, where this will improve the quality of public debate on the public finances.

Where the OBR publishes supplementary material, releases will be made in an orderly manner that promotes public confidence and gives equal access to information. **The OBR will publish any supplementary forecast information on our website on a fortnightly basis. One release of information will coincide with whichever day the Office for National Statistics issues its monthly Public Sector Finances (PSF) release. We will also publish information on the Thursday which follows two weeks after the PSF release. Releases will be published at 11am.**

Where releases are to be made, the OBR will publish the subject matter of the release on our website at 11am on the day before the scheduled release.

As far as resources and the process allows, we will endeavour to respond promptly to enquiries.

Following the publication of our bi-annual *Economic and fiscal outlook*, we will have an additional supplementary release date within a week of publication, usually on the same day as the Budget Responsibility Committee gives oral evidence to the Treasury Select Committee. This will allow us to address immediate requests for clarification of our forecast on a timely basis. As above, we will announce the subject matter of any release 24 hours ahead of publication. We will also publish the deadline for requests on the day of publication in the press release alongside the *Economic and fiscal outlook*.

We also expect that some of the information underlying our forecast may be of interest in the run up to the election. For the six week period prior to the General Election on 7 May, we will respond to enquiries on a more frequent basis and aim to publish underlying forecast information within a maximum of four working days. These releases will follow the same procedures set out above, where we will announce the release of supplementary information 24 hours in advance on our website.

As Ministers may be expected to comment on OBR supplementary releases as they relate to the Government's fiscal policy, the OBR will inform the Treasury of relevant requests for information as they are received. The Treasury and Treasury Ministers will also be provided with embargoed copies of OBR releases, for information, 24 hours before publication.