

18 June 2019
Our ref: FOI/17/05/19

Dear

Re: Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, which we received on 17 May 2019.

You requested the following information:

1. How many extra staff have been employed by the OBR to work primarily or specifically on Brexit preparations or policy?

Following the allocation of Brexit preparation funds at the start of the 2018-19 financial year the OBR has employed 4 additional staff on temporary contracts to undertake analysis in preparation for incorporating a wide range of possible effects from leaving the EU into our forecasts. Whilst undertaking such analysis, the additional staff also require extensive knowledge of the underlying drivers of the forecast itself, so their work is not solely restricted to Brexit analysis. The OBR has 28 permanent members of staff, many of whom have also worked on Brexit-related analysis and on planning, reviewing and quality assuring analysis since the referendum.

2. How many staff have been seconded or transferred from other government departments or agencies to the OBR to work on Brexit?

Recruitment was undertaken via normal processes on the basis of fair and open competition. Successful applicants were existing civil servants.

3. How many staff have been seconded or transferred out of the OBR into other departments or agencies to work on Brexit?

No staff have been transferred or seconded out of the OBR to work in Brexit.

4. How many of the staff currently within the OBR and working on Brexit are working primarily or specifically on preparations for a 'no deal' Brexit?

The analysis being undertaken by staff across the OBR is in preparation for a wide range of outcomes as set out in our Discussion paper: *Brexit and the OBR's forecasts*.

If you have any other queries about this letter, please send them to our enquiries inbox at obr.enquiries@obr.uk.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Unit
Office for Budget Responsibility

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Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to OBR Enquiries, Office for Budget Responsibility, 14T, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ or by email to obr.enquiries@obr.uk.

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the OBR. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.