

Rt Hon Vince Cable MP
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Robert Chote
Chairman

20 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0NF

budgetresponsibility.org.uk

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Dear Vince

Thank you very much for your letter.

As you will see from the Economic and Fiscal Outlook publication, we have made very clear in several places the distinction between the firm departmental spending plans in place until 2015-16 and the levels of spending implied by the Government's spending policy assumption for subsequent years.

We have also pointed out – as in previous documents – that both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have said that they would pursue different tax and spending policies if they were to govern alone.

As you will appreciate, Parliament has instructed us to base our forecasts on current Government policy and not to distinguish between the policies of the individual parties. So we have used the policy assumption presented to us by the Chancellor, and signed off by the 'quad'.

I would be very happy to meet and discuss our latest forecast as you suggest.

Best regards,
Robert

Robert Chote
Chairman