

6 April 2016

**Re: FOI request sent March 13 2016**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, which we received on 13 March 2016.

You requested:

- *a list of all individuals and their titles who were granted access to the draft EFO before the budgets on March 18 and July 8 2015 and the autumn statement on November 25 2015; and*
- *the OBR's policy with regards to which individuals are granted access to the draft EFO and why.*

I can confirm that we hold information that falls in the scope of your request. It is set out in the annex to this letter. The names of staff below senior civil service grades have been redacted.

We published the list of relevant people for the first time alongside the March 2016 *Economic and fiscal outlook* in the *Log of substantive contact between the OBR and Treasury Ministers, Special Advisers and private office staff*.<sup>1</sup>

The principles underpinning the exceptional pre-release access period are set out in paragraph 23 of the *Memorandum of Understanding between Office for Budget Responsibility, HM Treasury, Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue & Custom (MOU)*.<sup>2</sup> This allows for the sharing of information between departments when sight of our draft publications adds to the usefulness and accuracy of another publication that is published at the same time or soon after, in this case Budgets and Autumn Statements and the Chancellor's statements to Parliament at the time of those fiscal events.

The Treasury Select Committee's recent *Review of the scope and performance of the Office for Budget Responsibility* recommended that the MoU should be reviewed to ensure that the arrangements for the exceptional pre-release period are more clearly defined. The *HM Treasury Review of the OBR* also recommended that the MoU should be reviewed before September 2016.<sup>3</sup>

Yours sincerely,

Mark Dembowicz  
**Office for Budget Responsibility**

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<sup>1</sup> [http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/docs/dlm\\_uploads/Log-of-contact-EFO-March-16.pdf](http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/Log-of-contact-EFO-March-16.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/docs/dlm\\_uploads/obr\\_memorandum040411.pdf](http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/obr_memorandum040411.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/458248/HM\\_Treasury\\_review\\_of\\_the\\_OBR\\_03092015.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/458248/HM_Treasury_review_of_the_OBR_03092015.pdf)