



HM TREASURY

Dave Ramsden  
Chief Economic Advisor &  
Head of the Government Economic Service  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

15 March 2011

Robert Chote  
Chairman  
Office for Budget Responsibility  
20 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0NF

*Dear Robert,*

**RE: PRE- RELEASE ACCESS TO MARCH 2011 ECONOMIC AND FISCAL OUTLOOK**

Budget 2011 will be published on Wednesday 23 March, concurrently with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 Economic and Fiscal Outlook document. The Government intends to adopt the OBR's economic and fiscal forecasts as the official forecasts for the Budget Report. The Report, and the Chancellor's Budget statement, will draw on the material you publish in the Economic and Fiscal Outlook document.

As a result, I am writing to formally request exceptional pre-release access to a draft copy of your document, ahead of the final document you will send 24 hours prior to publication. We would ideally require a copy by 12.30pm on Friday 18 March. This will provide sufficient time for the relevant material to be incorporated into the Budget document and associated products. Access to the document would be restricted to those that required it for operational purposes. It would be for our information only, not for comment. We would be happy to provide a named list of those requiring access.

This access is in line with the Office for National Statistics pre-release rules that you have adopted for OBR publications. These rules allow requests for pre-release access in excess of 24 hours under the provisions in the Pre-Release Order 2008 relating to third party publications. Where early access to material may significantly improve the accuracy or usefulness of another publication, and the publication is intended to be published at the same time as or shortly after that material, then the person responsible for the material may grant earlier access at their discretion.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Ramsden



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