

22 January 2024

Forecast timetable: 6 March 2024

- 1.1 On 27 December the Chancellor requested the next Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast to be published on 6 March, to accompany the Government's Budget. As provided for by the *Charter for Budget Responsibility and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* that governs the forecasting process,¹ the OBR agreed the timetable for this forecast with the Forecast Liaison Group on 19 January.²
- 1.2 The timetable for transmitting forecast rounds from the OBR to the Chancellor to inform his policy decisions and for publishing the final *Economic and fiscal outlook* is as follows:
- Tuesday 30 January: Round 1
 - Wednesday 14 February: Round 2
 - Tuesday 20 February: Round 3
 - 28 February: Round 4
 - Friday 1 March: Round 5
 - Wednesday 6 March: *Economic and fiscal outlook* published
- 1.3 Forecast rounds will be transmitted to the Chancellor at the end of the working day. All rounds of the forecast up to and including Round 2 will be 'pre-measures' rounds. Subsequent rounds will combine the 'pre-measures' forecast with the economic and fiscal implications of any new policy measures notified to the OBR by the Treasury so that they are ready to be included in a final, post-measures forecast published on 6 March. The interim rounds are transmitted to the Chancellor in confidence, in order to inform the policy decisions in the Budget. The OBR will not comment on or publish any of the rounds transmitted to the Chancellor prior to the final forecast on 6 March, which will be published in full in the *Economic and fiscal outlook*.
- 1.4 The MoU sets an expectation that the time between the closure of the pre-measures economy forecast and publication of the final forecast of 21 days. We have extended this to 23 days on this occasion, in order to accommodate a slightly earlier Budget date, and to align the stages of forecast production with important data releases from the ONS.

¹ See Chapter 3 of <https://obr.uk/download/memorandum-of-understanding-3/>

² The Forecast Liaison Group comprises the OBR, HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs, and Department for Work and Pensions.