

The Rt Hon Philip Hammond,  
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**Robert Chote**  
*Chairman*

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[budgetresponsibility.org.uk](http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk)

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*Dear Chancellor*

**Budget 2017 forecast and forecast timetable**

Thank you for your letter asking us to publish our next forecast on 8 March, which we will do.

You also asked that we factor in the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) second estimate of GDP into Round 3 of the forecast process. Given the early timing of the Budget, a normal forecast timetable would have involved that being reflected in Round 4. On an exceptional basis, we have been able to agree with the ONS a solution that meets your request through a combination of the ONS squeezing their statistical production timetable to bring forward the release date for the GDP and related data, plus providing exceptional pre-release access for relevant members of OBR staff and the Budget Responsibility Committee, and us squeezing the Round 3 forecast timetable.

This will create some additional pressures in the final two weeks of the forecasting and policy costings processes, for example by reducing the amount of time we will have available to scrutinise the detailed breakdown of self-assessment receipts that will only be available for Round 3. This may entail some risks, particularly if the costings process is back-loaded or complex measures are introduced at a late stage. We will work with your officials to try to minimise those risks.

*Best regards,* 

Robert Chote  
**Chairman**