

Barry Smith

Via email: barry.smith.personal@gmail.com

9 February 2015

Our ref: SMITH03022015

Office for Budget Responsibility
20 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0NF

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obrenquiries@obr.gsi.gov.uk

budgetresponsibility.org.uk

Dear Barry Smith,

Re: Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, which we received on 3 February 2015.

You requested the following information in relation to the December 2014 *Economic and fiscal outlook*;

- 1) a copy of an alternative versions of chart 3.36 that you have produced (together with the relevant data table) for alternative views of government spending over the forecast period.
- 2) any estimates you have made of the levels of Government Consumption' over the forecast period for the spending plans of any other political party.
- 3) any estimates you have made of the levels of Government Consumption' over the forecast period should the government seek to eliminate the structural budget deficit by 2017-18 but make no further fiscal consolidation.

As you state in your request, the OBR is required to produce economic and fiscal forecasts on the basis of the announced policies of the current government. In fact, the OBR is specifically forbidden to consider the effect of alternative policies by the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011.

I can confirm that we have not considered the effect of alternative policies on government spending or on government consumption and, as a result, do not hold any information which is relevant to your request.

If you have any other queries about this letter, feel free to contact OBR enquiries at obrenquiries@obr.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Unit
Office for Budget Responsibility

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Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to OBR Enquiries, Office for Budget Responsibility, 20 Victoria Street, London SW1 0NF or by email to obrenquiries@obr.gsi.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the OBR. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.