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Mr Dave Ramsden
Chief Economic Adviser
HM Treasury
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15th March 2010

Dear Dave

Thank you very much for your letter requesting exceptional pre-release access to the draft Economic and fiscal outlook on Friday 18 March.

I recognise the need to ensure that the content of the EFO can be reflected accurately in the Chancellor's Budget statement and accompanying documentation, and am therefore willing to grant the request. As you say, this is in the line with the arrangements for pre-release access to material from the Office for National Statistics, which we adopted as a benchmark last autumn.

I am glad that you recognise the need to restrict circulation of the draft to the minimum number of individuals who require it for operational reasons and I would be grateful if you could provide me with a list of those concerned. Needless to say, if there were to be any 'pre-briefing' of the content to the media in advance of publication, we would not be as accommodating in the future.

Best regards,

Robert