

22 January 2025

Forecast timetable: 26 March 2025

- 1.1 On 16 December 2024 the Chancellor requested the next Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast to be published on 26 March. 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 16 January.²
- 1.2 The timetable for transmitting forecast rounds from the OBR to the Chancellor to inform any policy decisions and for publishing the final *Economic and fiscal outlook* is as follows:
- Tuesday 4 February: Round 1
 - Wednesday 19 February: Round 2
 - Tuesday 4 March: Round 3
 - Monday 10 March: Round 4
 - Friday 21 March: Round 5
 - Wednesday 26 March: *Economic and fiscal outlook* published
- 1.3 In line with the usual forecast process set out in the *MoU*, all rounds of the forecast up to and including Round 3 will be ‘pre-measures’ rounds, with subsequent rounds combining the ‘pre-measures’ forecast with the economic and fiscal implications of any new policy measures since the October forecast notified to the OBR by the Treasury. Interim rounds are transmitted to the Chancellor in confidence, in order to inform her decisions. The OBR will not comment on or publish any of the rounds transmitted to the Chancellor prior to the final forecast on 26 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 is a maximum of 21 working days. With the agreement of *MoU* signatories, we have extended this to 22 working days on this occasion.

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.