

3 November 2021
Our ref: FOI181021

102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

obr.uk

Dear

Re: Freedom of Information Request.

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, which we received on 18 October 2021. We replied to your request on 1 November but we have subsequently identified that three further emails were inadvertently excluded from our release of information. The material that begins on page three of this letter now includes additional exchanges from 7 June (Subject: RE: Forecast paper); 16 June (subject: RE Forecast process FLG paper); and 7 July (Subject: Timetable). The remainder of this reply remains as in our earlier reply.

You requested the following:

“Copies of correspondence, either electronic or physical received from or sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer or other Treasury officials including special advisors on the issue of when the OBR would cease updating its economic forecast ahead of the budget due on the 27th October 2021.”

I can confirm that we hold the information that you have requested. Copies of the relevant correspondence are attached. Some sections of the email correspondence have been redacted where we judge them to be out of scope of your request. No material that we judged to be in scope has been withheld from release.

Given the nature of the correspondence, we considered the case for exemption under Section 36 of the FOI Act, which requires a ‘qualified person’ – in our case the Chairman of the OBR – to consider whether the release of information would inhibit the free and frank exchange of views in the future. This is a qualified exemption subject to a public interest test. In this instance, although it was considered that the release of the requested information could inhibit the freeness or frankness of future exchanges, the public interest in disclosing the information was deemed to be greater than the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

If you have any other queries about this letter, please send them to our enquiries inbox at obr.enquiries@obr.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, 14T, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ or by email to obr.enquiries@obr.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.

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Sent: 26 May 2021 16:43
To: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: RE: Forecast paper

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR],
Please see an updated paper with a small correction.
Thanks,
[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Sent: 26 May 2021 15:34
To: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: Forecast paper

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR],
Please see an updated paper.
Thanks,
[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

26 May 2021, 'RE: Forecast paper', attachment:

Forecast Process Working Paper:

Objectives:

- Overriding objective is to improve the extent to which the forecast is useful and influential for policy-decisions without compromising forecast credibility. This includes:
 - 1) Increasing the time the Chancellor has to make policy decisions on the basis of a stable view of the economic outlook.
 - 2) Improving the estimation of the indirect effects for both individual policies and in aggregate.

Currently, the forecast is made up of 3 pre-measures rounds and one Major Measures round within a ten week timetable. There is usually a gap of 2-3 days between the final pre-measures fiscal forecast and the Major Measures deadline in which the Chancellor can consider policy decisions. The final pre-measures economy forecast (the last point the forecast would take on moving economy data or new OBR judgements on the pre-measures position) takes place around 3 weeks before Budget day.

Areas for change:

- 1) To increase the time the Chancellor has to make policy decisions we could:
 - a) Increase the gap between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures significantly, e.g. by 1 or 2 weeks. To accommodate this within a 10 week timetable, this would necessitate reducing the number of pre-measures rounds to 2. In this option, the final economy round would take place 4 - 5 weeks before budget day, compared to 3 weeks in the usual process.
 - b) If we wanted to pursue this option without reducing the number of forecast rounds, we could increase the length of the forecast process by one or two weeks. In this option, there would be 3 pre-measures rounds but the final pre-measures economy round would take place earlier to allow for more decision making time. In summary, the final economy round would take place 4 - 5 weeks before budget day, but the length of the pre-measures forecast period would be the same as in the usual process.
- 2) Improving the stability of the pre-measures forecast:

- a) No new data is included after the final pre-measures round, ensuring a stable base for policy decisions to be made and to test the policy package.
 - b) In exceptional circumstances where there are significant datapoints or news that need to be included, the forecast would stay open to data releases – this would need explicit agreement from both HMT and the OBR.
 - c) If an additional post-measures round was included, this round could act as a cut off point to include news.
 - d) If any errors are made during the forecast process, the final point for corrections to be made should be the final round.
- 3) To improve the estimation of the indirect effects:.
- a) Introduce an extra post measures round in between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures. In the current timetable, the turnaround would be very tight.
 - b) Under 1a the extra-post measures round could replace of what is usually round 3.
 - c) Under 1b the extra round would fall during the extra time provided by the lengthening of the back end of the forecast process.
 - d) HMT and the OBR continue work to review the indirect effects and focus group processes with the aim to ensure that the OBR gives a clear steer on their judgement of the expected indirect effects of policies, including explaining where and why this differs from HMT estimates.

Forecast options:

1) Usual forecast process

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10
		R1 Economy			T-8
			R1 Fiscal		T-6
	R2 Economy				T-5
			R2 Fiscal		T-4
	R3 Economy				T-3
	R3 Fiscal			Major Measures	T-2
	R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R4 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

2) Extra post-measures round

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10
		R1 Economy			T-8
		R1 Fiscal			T-6
R2 Economy					T-5
	R2 Fiscal				T-4
R3 Economy				R3 Fiscal	T-3
	R3.5 (MM1)	R3.5 (Eco and Fiscal)		Major Measures (2)	T-2
	R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R4 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

3) +2 weeks decision making time and an extra post measures round (10 weeks notice)

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10
		R1 Economy			T-8
			R1 Fiscal		T-6
	R2 Economy				T-5
	R2 Fiscal			Major measures 1	T-4
			R3 Economy (PM)		T-3
R3 Fiscal (PM)				Major Measures 2	T-2
	R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R4 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

4) +2 weeks decision making time and an extra post measures round (12 weeks notice)

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		12 weeks notification			T - 12
		R1 Economy			T - 10
			R1 Fiscal		T-8
	R2 Economy				T-7
			R2 Fiscal		T-6
	R3 Economy				T-5
	R3 Fiscal			Major Measures 1	T-4
			R4 Economy		T-3
R4 Fiscal				Major Measures 2	T-2
	R5 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R5 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

Mitigations:

- Under option 3, the most challenging aspect will be completing a pre-measures forecast in less time. An earlier round 0 may alleviate some pressure on the forecast process itself. If the Chancellor gives advanced notice (for example 12 weeks), this would provide enough time to run a pre-measures forecast process with 3 rounds, which is option 4. In this case, the final economy round would fall earlier on in and process to give more time for decision making.
- An alternative addition to option 3, HMT instead begins the policy costings process earlier with the OBR, including advanced BRC sign off ahead of Round 1. Moving to more frequent engagement between HMT and the OBR throughout the year and outside of fiscal events should also work for less resolution within the forecast process, making an altered process more feasible.

Considerations for Autumn:

- Spending Review: The forecast will be happening alongside the Spending Review. While the intention is that the envelope will be settled before Major Measures, there is a risk the envelope may not be stable between the Major Measures rounds.
- The main consideration for Autumn is that if decision making time was increased compared to usual, potentially significant data points could be omitted from the forecast.
- Under options 3 and 4, July GDP/UK Trade and August PSF would be included in the final pre-measures forecast. However, the Q2 QNA and September's MPC decision would be excluded from the final pre-measures forecast, whereas they would be included in the usual forecast timetable and option 2. There would be an option to include these data releases as part of the first post-measures round in options 3 and 4

though. It would not be possible to include August GDP/UK Trade in any of the options with a Budget date of W/C 25th October.

- The below timetable sets out key data releases and where they would fall in relation to the final economy round in the usual process and the final economy round in options 3 and 4. (Although option 4 has 3 pre-measures rounds, the final economy round would still fall 5 weeks before budget as in option 3).

Forecast timetable					
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
16 Aug	17	18 10 weeks notification of forecast date	19	20 July PSF	T-10
30	31	1 Sep R1 Economy	2	3	T-8
6	7	8	9	10 July GDP/UK Trade	T-7
13	14	15	16 R1 Fiscal	17	T-6
20	21 R2 Economy (final pre-measures) August PSF	22	23 MPC	24	T-5
27 Deadline for inclusion of fiscal moving news/data	28 R2 Fiscal (final pre-measures)	29	30 Q2 QNA End of CJRS	1 Oct Major Measures 1	T-4
4 Oct Conservative Party Conference	5 R3 Economy in typical timetable Conservative Party Conference	6 Conservative Party Conference	7 R3 Economy (post measures)	8	T-3
11 R3 Fiscal (post measures) August GDP/UK Trade	12 R3 Fiscal in typical timetable	13	14	15 Major measures 2 Major Measures in typical timetable	T-2
18	19 R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	20 R4 Fiscal	21 Final Scorecard September PSF	22 Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
25	26	27 Forecast published	28	29	T

Questions:

- What would an extra post-measures round look like in the current forecast process?
- If there was increased decision-making time, would it better for credibility to be open to specific releases or up to a particular date?
- If there was increased decision-making time, how would this interact with devolved fiscal events, which usually happen alongside or just after HMT events?

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Sent: 27 May 2021 13:37

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Subject: RE: Forecast paper

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR],

Please find attached an updated forecast process paper where we have worked up the suggestion of moving the economy rounds to make space for increased decision making (option 4).

Would be great to hear your thoughts ahead of the meeting tomorrow morning, as well as any points that come out of the BRC meeting today.

Thanks,

[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Forecast Process Working Paper:

Objectives:

- Overriding objective is to improve the extent to which the forecast is useful and influential for policy-decisions without compromising forecast credibility. This includes:
 - 1) Increasing the time the Chancellor has to make policy decisions on the basis of a stable view of the economic and fiscal outlook.
 - 2) Improving the early estimation of the indirect effects for both individual policies and in aggregate.

Currently, the forecast is made up of 3 pre-measures rounds and one Major Measures round within a ten week timetable. There is usually a gap of around 3 days between the final pre-measures fiscal forecast and the Major Measures deadline in which the Chancellor can consider policy decisions. The final pre-measures economy forecast (the last point the forecast would take on moving economy data or new OBR judgements on the pre-measures position) takes place around 3 weeks before Budget day.

Areas for change:

- 1) Increasing decision making time for the Chancellor:
 - a) The gap between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures could be increased significantly, e.g. by 1 or 2 weeks. To accommodate this within a 10 week timetable, this would necessitate reducing the number of pre-measures rounds to 2. In this option, the final economy round would take place 4 - 5 weeks before budget day, compared to 3 weeks in the usual process.
 - b) If we wanted to pursue this option without reducing the number of forecast rounds, we could bring forward the pre-measures rounds or we could increase the length of the forecast process by one or two weeks. In these options, there would be 3 pre-measures rounds but the final pre-measures economy round would take place earlier to allow for more decision making time. In summary, the final economy round would take place 4 - 5 weeks before budget day, but the length of the pre-measures forecast period would be the same as in the usual process.
- 2) Improving the stability of the pre-measures forecast:
 - a) No new data is included after the final pre-measures round, ensuring a stable base for policy decisions to be made and to test the policy package.
 - b) In exceptional circumstances where there are significant datapoints or news that need to be included, the forecast would stay open to data releases – this would need explicit agreement from both HMT and the OBR.
 - c) If an additional post-measures round was included, this round could act as a cut off point to include news.
 - d) If any errors are made during the forecast process, the final point for corrections to be made should be the final forecast round.
- 3) Improving the estimation of the indirect effects:
 - a) An extra post measures round could be introduced in between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures. In the current timetable, the turnaround would be very tight.
 - b) Under 1a the extra-post measures round could replace of what is usually round 3.
 - c) Under 1b the extra round would fall during the extra time provided by the lengthening of the back end of the forecast process.
 - d) HMT and the OBR continue work to review the indirect effects and focus group processes with the aim to ensure that the OBR gives a clear steer on their judgement of the expected indirect effects of policies, including explaining where and why this differs from HMT estimates.

Forecast options:

- 1) Usual forecast process – 4 rounds including 1 post measures round (10 weeks)

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10
					T-9
		R1 Economy			T-8
			R1 Fiscal		T-6
	R2 Economy				T-5
			R2 Fiscal		T-4
	R3 Economy				T-3
R3 Fiscal				Major Measures	T-2
	R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R4 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

2) Usual forecast process with an extra post-measures round – 5 rounds including 2 post measures rounds (10 weeks)

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10
					T-9
		R1 Economy			T-8
		R1 Fiscal			T-6
R2 Economy					T-5
	R2 Fiscal				T-4
R3 Economy				R3 Fiscal	T-3
	R3.5 (MM1)	R3.5 (Eco and Fiscal)		Major Measures (2)	T-2
	R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R4 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

3) +2 weeks decision making time - 4 rounds including 2 post measures rounds (10 weeks)

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10
					T-9
		R1 Economy			T-8
			R1 Fiscal		T-6
	R2 Economy				T-5
	R2 Fiscal			Major measures 1	T-4
			R3 Economy (PM)		T-3
R3 Fiscal (PM)				Major Measures 2	T-2
	R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R4 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

4) +2 weeks decision making time - 5 rounds including 2 post measures rounds (10 weeks)

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10

		R1 Economy			T - 9
			R1 Fiscal		T-8
	R2 Economy				T-6
	R2 Fiscal			R3 Economy	T-5
		R3 Fiscal		Major measures 1	T-4
			R4 Economy (PM)		T-3
R3 Fiscal (PM)				Major Measures 2	T-2
	R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R4 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

5) +2 weeks decision making time - 5 rounds including 2 post measures rounds (12 weeks)

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		12 weeks notification			T - 12
					T-11
		R1 Economy			T - 10
					T-9
			R1 Fiscal		T-8
	R2 Economy				T-7
			R2 Fiscal		T-6
	R3 Economy				T-5
	R3 Fiscal			Major Measures 1	T-4
			R4 Economy		T-3
R4 Fiscal				Major Measures 2	T-2
	R5 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R5 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

Mitigations:

- Under option 3, the most challenging aspect will be completing a pre-measures forecast in less time. An earlier round 0 may alleviate some pressure on the forecast process itself. If the Chancellor gives advanced notice (for example 12 weeks), this would provide enough time to run a pre-measures forecast process with 3 rounds, which is option 5. In this case, the final economy round would fall earlier on in the process to give more time for decision making.
- An alternative addition to option 3 is that HMT instead begins the policy costings process earlier with the OBR, including advanced BRC sign off ahead of Round 1. Moving to more frequent engagement between HMT and the OBR throughout the year and outside of fiscal events should also work for less resolution within the forecast process, making an altered process more feasible.

Considerations for Autumn:

- The forecast will be accompanying the Spending Review in addition to the Budget. While the intention is that the envelope will be settled before Major Measures, there is a risk the envelope may not be stable between the Major Measures rounds.
- The main consideration for Autumn is that if decision making time was increased compared to usual, potentially significant data points could be omitted from the forecast.
- Under options 3, 4 and 5, July GDP/UK Trade and August PSF would be included in the final pre-measures forecast. However, the Q2 QNA would be excluded from the final pre-measures forecast, whereas they would be included in the usual forecast timetable and option 2. September's MPC decision would be

included in option 4 but not option 3 and 5. It would not be possible to include August GDP/UK Trade in any of the options with a Budget date of W/C 25th October.

- The below timetable sets out key data releases and where they would fall in relation to the final economy round in the usual process and the final economy round in options 3 and 5. (Although option 5 has 3 pre-measures rounds, the final economy round would still fall 5 weeks before budget as in option 3).

Forecast timetable					
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
<u>16 Aug</u>	17	18 10 weeks notification of forecast date	19	20 July PSF	T-10
30	31	<u>1 Sep</u> R1 Economy	2	3	T-8
6	7	8	9	10 July GDP/UK Trade	T-7
13	14	15	16 R1 Fiscal	17	T-6
20	21 R2 Economy (final pre-measures) August PSF	22	23 MPC	24	T-5
27 Deadline for inclusion of fiscal moving news/data	28 R2 Fiscal (final pre-measures)	29	30 Q2 QNA End of CJRS	<u>1 Oct</u> Major Measures 1	T-4
4 Oct Conservative Party Conference	5 R3 Economy in typical timetable Conservative Party Conference	6 Conservative Party Conference	7 R3 Economy (post measures)	8	T-3
11 R3 Fiscal (post measures) August GDP/UK Trade	12 R3 Fiscal in typical timetable	13	14	15 Major measures 2 Major Measures in typical timetable	T-2
18	19 R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	20 R4 Fiscal	21 Final Scorecard September PSF	22 Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
25	26	27 Forecast published	28	29	T

Questions:

- What would an extra post-measures round look like in the current forecast process?
- If there was increased decision-making time, would it better for credibility to be open to specific releases or up to a particular date?
- If there was increased decision-making time, how would this interact with devolved fiscal events, which usually happen alongside or just after HMT events?

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

Sent: 27 May 2021 18:35

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Subject: RE: Forecast paper

Hi all,

Just a quick note to say the BRC's view was pretty consistent with my side of our discussion yesterday – specifically, they are happy to accommodate an extra round at the expense of getting the very latest data point in; timing should not come at the expense of a pre measures round and that we should consider how to manage the process for the

necessary inclusion of big news late on (e.g roadmap type stuff, but also some big surprise swing that is material). We also discussed the need to review any changes after a year (and in more normal times).

We also discussed the October timetable a bit and think we might need to do a round 1 much earlier than usual to accommodate leave plans (amongst other things!). Let's think in more detail once we bottom out this change in process?

Thanks, [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT],

Yes, should be OK.

[Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think we will need to push back on the idea that adding a week and a fully supported process of developing the measures through the forecast is not conceding a good amount of time and resource to allow a better process for decision making – just as a heads up to where our thinking at this point.

Thanks, [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Sent: 07 June 2021 15:16
To: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: RE: Forecast paper

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR],

Hope [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] enjoyed your time off.

[Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] and Steve should have received an invitation for a further meeting on the forecast process tomorrow morning at 11am – are [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] both able to make this?

Thanks,
[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Sent: 04 June 2021 10:02
To: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: RE: Forecast paper

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR],

Thanks for this. It is quite close to our expectations following the meeting and appreciate [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] sharing a copy with us.

If it works for [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR], we'll integrate this option in the working paper we originally shared with [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] and turn it into a draft FLG paper to discuss with [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]/Steve/Ian early next week.

However a few points to note from our side:

- The option [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] set out does look quite compressed in terms of gaps between fiscal outputs and the major measures deadlines, so as not to provide the CX with much time before he has to submit the two policy packages.

- We'll have to keep an option which gives CX more than 7 days decision making time – probably 2 weeks minimum – as this is what he has requested. We can provide this with pros and cons and your alternative option. It might be worth discussing in more detail these options, especially in terms of actual time between decision making rounds and what this means.
- We'll need to work up options to accommodate possible changes within the front end of the process, for example round 0 or 2 pre-measures rounds within 10 weeks and giving more than 10 weeks notice.

In terms of next steps:

- We'll work up the new paper this week and put in a meeting to discuss with [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] / Steve and Ian early next week.
- We are going to look begin some initial discussions with DWP if possible.

Thanks,

[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

Sent: 28 May 2021 17:03

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Subject: RE: Forecast paper

Hi all,

This is where [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] have got to on possible forecast rounds, but only R2 onwards. [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] realise now that [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] should have stick to not showing everyone the version [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] didn't want to show everyone this morning in case there were inconsistencies and it turns out we were talking in old currency on MM deadlines in the final weeks. Hopefully this isn't too different from your expectations though. [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] have now taken a couple of people thorough this ([Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]) so should largely be a decent view from our side, but not widely shared.

Thanks,

[Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

28 May 2021, 'RE: Forecast paper', attachment:

AFF 2021EFO timetable		28/05/2021			
		Forecast	Policy	Data	Days
Mon	5-Jul				114
Tue	6-Jul	Fiscal risks report			113
Wed	7-Jul				112
Thu	8-Jul				111
Fri	9-Jul				110
Sat	10-Jul				109
Sun	11-Jul				108
Mon	12-Jul				107
Tue	13-Jul				106
Wed	14-Jul				105

Thu	15-Jul				104
Fri	16-Jul				103
Sat	17-Jul				102
Sun	18-Jul				101
Mon	19-Jul				100
Tue	20-Jul				99
Wed	21-Jul				98
Thu	22-Jul				97
Fri	23-Jul				96
Sat	24-Jul				95
Sun	25-Jul				94
Mon	26-Jul				93
Tue	27-Jul				92
Wed	28-Jul				91
Thu	29-Jul				90
Fri	30-Jul				89
Sat	31-Jul				88
Sun	1-Aug				87
Mon	2-Aug				86
Tue	3-Aug				85
Wed	4-Aug				84
Thu	5-Aug				83
Fri	6-Aug				82
Sat	7-Aug				81
Sun	8-Aug				80
Mon	9-Aug				79
Tue	10-Aug				78
Wed	11-Aug				77
Thu	12-Aug				76
Fri	13-Aug				75
Sat	14-Aug				74
Sun	15-Aug				73
Mon	16-Aug				72
Tue	17-Aug				71

Wed	18-Aug	10 weeks			70
Thu	19-Aug				69
Fri	20-Aug			PSF	68
Sat	21-Aug				67
Sun	22-Aug				66
Mon	23-Aug				65
Tue	24-Aug				64
Wed	25-Aug				63
Thu	26-Aug				62
Fri	27-Aug				61
Sat	28-Aug				60
Sun	29-Aug				59
Mon	30-Aug				58
Tue	31-Aug				57
Wed	1-Sep				56
Thu	2-Sep				55
Fri	3-Sep				54
Sat	4-Sep				53
Sun	5-Sep				52
Mon	6-Sep				51
Tue	7-Sep				50
Wed	8-Sep				49
Thu	9-Sep	R2 Base and determinants			48
Fri	10-Sep			GDP estimate	47
Sat	11-Sep				46
Sun	12-Sep				45
Mon	13-Sep	R2 Returns from depts.			44
Tue	14-Sep			Labour market	43
Wed	15-Sep			CPI	42
Thu	16-Sep				41
Fri	17-Sep				40
Sat	18-Sep				39
Sun	19-Sep				38
Mon	20-Sep				37

Tue	21-Sep			PSF	36
Wed	22-Sep	R2 Fiscal Tables and forecast note			35
Thu	23-Sep	Model input		MPC	34
Fri	24-Sep				33
Sat	25-Sep				32
Sun	26-Sep				31
Mon	27-Sep				30
Tue	28-Sep	R3 Base and determinants			29
Wed	29-Sep				28
Thu	30-Sep	R3 Returns from depts.		QNA	27
Fri	1-Oct			-	26
Sat	2-Oct			-	25
Sun	3-Oct			-	24
Mon	4-Oct			-	23
Tue	5-Oct				22
Wed	6-Oct	R3 Fiscal Tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note		-	21
Thu	7-Oct				20
Fri	8-Oct		Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close	-	19
Sat	9-Oct			-	18
Sun	10-Oct			-	17
Mon	11-Oct			GDP, Trade	16
Tue	12-Oct	Model input		Labour market	15
Wed	13-Oct	R4 Base and returns		-	14
Thu	14-Oct	R4 Fiscal tables			13
Fri	15-Oct		Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close	-	12
Sat	16-Oct			-	11
Sun	17-Oct			-	10
Mon	18-Oct	Model input		-	9
Tue	19-Oct	Final Base & Final Determinants - sent at 09:30. Returns from depts. by close	Preliminary scorecard by close	-	8
Wed	20-Oct	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)		CPI	7
Thu	21-Oct		Final scorecard	PSF	6
Fri	22-Oct	FINAL FISCAL TABLES			5
Sat	23-Oct				4

Sun	24-Oct				3
Mon	25-Oct				2
Tue	26-Oct				1
Wed	27-Oct	Publish			
Thu	28-Oct				
Fri	29-Oct				
Sat	30-Oct				
Sun	31-Oct				

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Sent: 07 June 2021 19:00

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Curtice, Ruth - HMT; Ginsberg, Ian - HMT; Connolly, Maeve - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]; Farrington, Stephen

Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Gardiner, Laura

Subject: Forecast process FLG paper

Hi all,

Ahead of the discussion tomorrow morning at 11am, please find attached a first cut of an FLG paper on new forecast proposals, which splits out options for the back and front end of the process.

To note, this is an early draft from the branch that has not yet received comments from Ruth or the wider Treasury.

Thanks,

[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

7 June 2021, 'Forecast process FLG paper', attachment:

Forecast Liaison Group: Options for a new forecast process

Summary:

- 1) As part of the Chancellor's request to improve effective decision making within the forecast process, this paper explores different areas for change. This includes proposals to maintain a stable base and better anticipate the indirect effects of the proposed policy package, but most significantly, it explores options for increasing time for policy decision making between the final pre-measures and Major Measures rounds.

Background

- 1) One of the main roles of The Office for Budget Responsibility is to produce five-year forecasts for the economy and public finances twice year, to accompany a Budget and Spring Statement.
- 2) Currently, the forecast process is made up of 3 pre-measures rounds and one post-measures round, following Major Measures, within a ten week timetable. There is usually a gap of around 3 days between the final pre-measures fiscal forecast and the Major Measures deadline in which the Chancellor can consider policy decisions. The final pre-measures economy forecast (the last point the forecast would take on moving economy data or new OBR judgements on the pre-measures position) takes place around 3 weeks before Budget day.

Objectives:

- 3) To improve the extent to which the forecast is useful and influential for the Chancellor to make policy-decisions, without compromising forecast quality or credibility. This includes:
 - a. Increasing the time the Chancellor has to make policy decisions on the basis of a stable view of the economic and fiscal outlook.

- b. Improving the early estimation of indirect effects for individual policies and in aggregate.

Areas for change:

- 4) Increasing decision making time for the Chancellor:
 - a. The gap between the final pre-measures fiscal forecast and Major Measures could be increased significantly, e.g. by 1 to 3 weeks to 8-18 working days. This would provide more time for the Chancellor to consider policy decisions once he has received the final pre-measures fiscal forecast. There is a trade-off between time for decision-making and time to incorporate data into the pre-measures forecast. Under this proposal, the final pre-measures economy round would take place 4 - 6 weeks before budget day, compared to 3 weeks in the usual process.
 - b. Adding extra time for decision making would need to be accommodated in the rest of the timetable. In a 10-week timetable, this would mean compressing the forecast period by moving the first economy round back a week, reducing the number of pre-measures rounds to 2 rounds, or giving the OBR and respective forecasting departments informal notice and running a round before the official notification period. In such cases, the final pre-measures economy round would still take place 4 - 6 weeks before budget day, but there would be varying amounts of time to prepare the initial forecast.

- 5) To take advantage of increased decision-making time, it will be important to maintain a stable pre-measures base. This could be attained by:
 - a. Agreeing to not include new data or news after the final pre-measures round to ensure a stable base for policy decisions to be made.
 - b. In exceptional circumstances where there are unexpected significant datapoints or news that needs to be included, the forecast could stay open, but this would need explicit agreement from both HMT and the OBR.
 - c. If any errors are made during the forecast process, the final point for corrections to be made would be the final forecast round.

- 6) Improving the estimation of the indirect effects:
 - a. HMT and the OBR continue to review the indirect effects and focus group processes with the aim of having a consistent understanding of expected indirect effects from policies.
 - b. An extra post measures round could be introduced in between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures. In the current timetable, this would not be feasible due to the short gap between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures. However, under proposals to increase decision making time, this could fall during the extra time between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures.

Forecast options:

- 7) This section looks at example timetable options to increase decision making by 1 or 2 weeks and to include an extra post measures round. To begin, an example timetable is provided for the current process. The next section provides options to increase decision making time, and the final section explores how this could be accommodated within the overall forecast period.

Usual forecast process – 4 rounds including 1 post measures round (10 weeks)

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10
					T-9
		R1 Economy		R1 Returns from Depts	T-8
					T-7
		R1 Fiscal			T-6
	R2 Base and Dets		R2 Returns from depts		T-5
		R2 Fiscal			T-4
	R3 Base and Dets		R3 Returns from Deps		T-3

R3 Fiscal Tables				Major Measures	<i>T-2</i>
	R4 Final Base and Dets Preliminary Scorecard	R4 Fiscal Tables	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	<i>T-1</i>
		Forecast published			<i>T</i>

Increasing decision making time

Option 1: Additional week decision of making time and 2 post measures rounds

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			<i>T-10</i>
					<i>T-9</i>
					<i>T-8</i>
			R2 Base and Dets		<i>T-7</i>
					<i>T-6</i>
		R2 Fiscal			<i>T-5</i>
	R3 Base and Dets				<i>T-4</i>
	R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures)			Major measures 1	<i>T-3</i>
		R4 Base and Returns	R4 Fiscal tables	Major Measures 2	<i>T-2</i>
	R5 Final Base and Dets Preliminary Scorecard	R5 Fiscal Tables	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	<i>T-1</i>
		Forecast published			<i>T</i>

Option 2: Additional two weeks decision making time and 2 post measures rounds

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 Weeks notification			<i>T-10</i>
					<i>T-9</i>
					<i>T-8</i>
					<i>T-7</i>
					<i>T-6</i>
					<i>T-5</i>
	R3 Fiscal Tables (final pre-measures)			Major Measures 1	<i>T-4</i>
		R4 Base and Returns		R4 Fiscal Tables	<i>T-3</i>
				Major Measures 2	<i>T-2</i>
	R5 Final Base and Dets Preliminary Scorecard	R5 Fiscal Tables	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	<i>T-1</i>
		Forecast published			<i>T</i>

- 8) As noted, there is a trade-off between time for decision-making and time to incorporate data into the pre-measures forecast. However, when including an extra post measures round, it is also useful to consider the gap between fiscal rounds and the Major Measures deadlines.
- 9) Option 1 would provide marginally more protection against risks to forecast credibility, given it likely allows for more data inclusion in the pre-measures forecast. However, it does not provide enough time to effectively run two post measures rounds. In option 2, on the other hand, the forecast would close a week earlier but this would provide adequate time to run two post-measures rounds as well as time to consider policy choices ahead of Major Measures deadlines. While decision making time could be extended further, for example by 3 weeks, option 2 would best balance the benefits of providing increased decision-making time with risks of loss of credibility from closing the pre-measures forecast earlier.

Accommodating increased decision making time in the forecast process:

- 10) Increasing the gap between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures involves moving the final pre-measures round earlier in the timetable. This also shifts the previous pre-measures rounds earlier as well.
- 11) Consequently, between the 10 week notification and R3 fiscal, there is 7 weeks in option 1 and 6 weeks in Option 2 (usually there is 8 weeks). Realistically, this is not enough time to run the previous rounds and the iterations between them. There are three main ways to resolve this: compressing the forecast period by moving the first economy round back a week, reducing the number of pre-measures rounds to 2 rounds, or giving the OBR and relevant forecasting departments informal notice and running a round before the official notification period. These are discussed in more detail below.
- 12) Option A: If option 1 was selected (+1 week decision making), the pre-measures rounds could be moved back a week so that the first economy round takes place a week after the 10 week notification date rather than two weeks as is usually the case. An example timetable of this can be seen below.

Option A:

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10
		R1 Economy		R1 Returns from Deps	T-9
					T-8
		R1 Fiscal			T-7
	R2 Base and Dets		R2 Returns from Deps		T-6
		R2 Fiscal			T-5
	R3 Base and Dets		R3 Dep Returns		T-4
		R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures)		Major measures 1	T-3
		R4 Base and Returns	R4 Fiscal tables	Major Measures 2	T-2
	R5 Final Base and Dets Preliminary Scorecard	R5 Fiscal Tables	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

- 13) However, this option would not accommodate option 2 (+ 2 weeks decision making time) within a 10 week timetable. If option 2 was selected, options B or C below would have to be considered to accommodate it.
- 14) Option B: Reduce the number of pre-measures rounds to two instead of three. This would create a four round process, in which the extra post-measures round would replace the usual round 3 and round 2 fiscal would be the final pre-measures round. This would accommodate an extra two weeks of decision making time. However, only running two rounds would make it more challenging to achieve internal consistency in the forecast.

Option B:

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		10 weeks notification			T-10
					T-9
		R1 Economy		R1 Returns from Deps	T-8
					T-7
			R1 Fiscal		T-6
R2 Base and Dets		R2 Dep Returns			T-5
	R2 Fiscal Tables (final pre-measures)			Major measures 1	T-4
			R3 Economy (PM)		T-3
R3 Fiscal (PM)				Major Measures 2	T-2

	R4 Economy Preliminary Scorecard	R4 Fiscal	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

15) Option C: Provide an informal or private notification 12 weeks in advance. In this option, the increased decision making time is accommodated by providing the OBR with a private notice 12 weeks in advance of the forecast date. This could allow the usual 2 weeks for the OBR to prepare the first economy round. This would make it possible to run the usual 3 pre-measures rounds. An example timetable is given below for an additional two weeks decision making accommodated by giving the OBR private notice 12 weeks in advance, followed by 10 weeks official notice.

Option C:

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
		12 weeks <i>informal</i> notice to OBR			T - 12
					T-11
		10 weeks official notification R1 Economy		R1 Returns from Depts	T - 10
					T-9
			R1 Fiscal		T-8
	R2 Returns from Depts				T-7
			R2 Fiscal		T-6
R3 Base and Dets		R3 Dep Returns			T-5
	R3 Fiscal Tables (final pre-measures)			Major Measures 1	T-4
			R4 Base and Returns		T-3
R4 Fiscal Tables				Major Measures 2	T-2
	R5 Final Base and Dets Preliminary Scorecard	R5 Fiscal Tables	Final Scorecard	Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
		Forecast published			T

16) Option C provides extra decision making time and an extra post-measures round without compressing the pre-measures forecast. However, by having to give private notice further in advance, flexibility in setting the Budget date is reduced.

17) Option B would retain this flexibility, by keeping a 10 week notification period. The most challenging aspect of option B is the compressed time period and reduced number of rounds given to reach a credible and stable base. However this could be mitigated by:

- a. Bringing forward work on costing notes ahead of the beginning of the forecast process.
- b. Resolving issues ahead of the beginning of forecast process.

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Sent: 08 June 2021 16:33
To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: RE: Forecast process FLG paper

Hi all,

Here's the next iteration – there's not much more space for bringing the pre measures forecast any earlier, but [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] have stretched out the policy space a bit more. Getting receipts info into R3 might be tricky in this version, but that can be considered important or minor depending on who [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] ask. (it did make [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think how [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] would handle good news that isn't in the forecast, which will be increasingly problematic the further back R3 goes).

[Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] should also add that I'm not sure things were clear on the scarring assumption – that we are highly unlikely to know enough/anything for R1 – but it sounds like people are happy to trade off quality of the earlier rounds and are very focussed on just getting R3 to work from.

Also, [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] had a quick look at making the space between R3 and MM2 at 4 weeks but it gets [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] into sending a R2 base at the same time as ten weeks' notice is due, so [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think it would need something more fundamental on notice period.

Let [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] know what [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] think of this and we can talk tomorrow afternoon.

Thanks, [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

8 June 2021, 'RE: Forecast process FLG paper', attachment:

AFF 2021EFO timetable		08/06/2021			
		Forecast	Policy	Data	Days
Mon	5-Jul				114
Tue	6-Jul	Fiscal risks report			113
Wed	7-Jul				112
Thu	8-Jul				111
Fri	9-Jul				110
Sat	10-Jul				109
Sun	11-Jul				108
Mon	12-Jul				107
Tue	13-Jul				106
Wed	14-Jul				105
Thu	15-Jul				104
Fri	16-Jul				103
Sat	17-Jul				102
Sun	18-Jul				101
Mon	19-Jul				100
Tue	20-Jul				99
Wed	21-Jul			PSF	98
Thu	22-Jul				97
Fri	23-Jul				96
Sat	24-Jul				95

Sun	25-Jul				94
Mon	26-Jul				93
Tue	27-Jul				92
Wed	28-Jul				91
Thu	29-Jul				90
Fri	30-Jul	R1 Base			89
Sat	31-Jul				88
Sun	1-Aug				87
Mon	2-Aug				86
Tue	3-Aug				85
Wed	4-Aug				84
Thu	5-Aug				83
Fri	6-Aug				82
Sat	7-Aug				81
Sun	8-Aug				80
Mon	9-Aug				79
Tue	10-Aug				78
Wed	11-Aug				77
Thu	12-Aug				76
Fri	13-Aug				75
Sat	14-Aug				74
Sun	15-Aug				73
Mon	16-Aug				72
Tue	17-Aug				71
Wed	18-Aug	10 weeks			70
Thu	19-Aug				69
Fri	20-Aug			PSF	68
Sat	21-Aug				67
Sun	22-Aug				66
Mon	23-Aug				65
Tue	24-Aug				64
Wed	25-Aug				63
Thu	26-Aug				62
Fri	27-Aug				61
Sat	28-Aug				60
Sun	29-Aug				59
Mon	30-Aug				58
Tue	31-Aug				57

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Wed	1-Sep				56	
Thu	2-Sep				55	-8
Fri	3-Sep	R1 Fiscal tables			54	
Sat	4-Sep				53	
Sun	5-Sep				52	
Mon	6-Sep				51	
Tue	7-Sep				50	
Wed	8-Sep	R2 Base and determinants			49	-7
Thu	9-Sep				48	
Fri	10-Sep	R2 Returns from depts.		GDP estimate	47	
Sat	11-Sep				46	
Sun	12-Sep				45	
Mon	13-Sep				44	
Tue	14-Sep			Labour market	43	
Wed	15-Sep			CPI	42	-6
Thu	16-Sep				41	
Fri	17-Sep				40	
Sat	18-Sep				39	
Sun	19-Sep				38	
Mon	20-Sep				37	
Tue	21-Sep			PSF	36	
Wed	22-Sep	R2 Fiscal Tables and forecast note			35	-5
Thu	23-Sep	Model input		MPC	34	
Fri	24-Sep				33	
Sat	25-Sep				32	
Sun	26-Sep				31	
Mon	27-Sep			HMRC receipts info	30	
Tue	28-Sep	R3 Base and determinants			29	
Wed	29-Sep	R3 Returns from depts.	Major measures meetings		28	
Thu	30-Sep			QNA	27	-4
Fri	1-Oct			-	26	
Sat	2-Oct			-	25	
Sun	3-Oct			-	24	
Mon	4-Oct			-	23	
Tue	5-Oct	R3 Fiscal Tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note			22	
Wed	6-Oct			-	21	-3
Thu	7-Oct		Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close		20	

Fri	8-Oct	Model input		-	19
Sat	9-Oct			-	18
Sun	10-Oct			-	17
Mon	11-Oct			GDP, Trade	16
Tue	12-Oct	R4 Base and returns		Labour market	15
Wed	13-Oct	R4 Fiscal tables			14
Thu	14-Oct				13
Fri	15-Oct		Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close		12
Sat	16-Oct			-	11
Sun	17-Oct			-	10
Mon	18-Oct	Model input		-	9
Tue	19-Oct	R5 base and returns	Preliminary scorecard by close	-	8
Wed	20-Oct	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)		GPI	7
Thu	21-Oct		Final scorecard	PSE	6
Fri	22-Oct	FINAL FISCAL TABLES			5
Sat	23-Oct				4
Sun	24-Oct				3
Mon	25-Oct				2
Tue	26-Oct				1
Wed	27-Oct	Publish			
Thu	28-Oct				
Fri	29-Oct				
Sat	30-Oct				
Sun	31-Oct				

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From: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Sent: 16 June 2021 13:51
To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: RE: Forecast process FLG paper

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Thanks for this, [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think it might be best if [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] run this past others and we catch up once we have discussed this end. Is that OK? Perhaps we can reschedule for tomorrow?

Thanks,

[Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Sent: 16 June 2021 13:22
To: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: RE: Forecast process FLG paper

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR],
 Ahead of our meeting later, please find attached a further iteration of timetable options for this autumn’s forecast. Thanks so much for sending over your time table setting out 8 days for decision making. We appreciate this is tricky to accommodate and [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] have already moved the pre-measures forecasts earlier. However, we are trying to work towards 13 days decision making time as the ideal option – we understand this is not possible for autumn, but would 11 days be possible? We have illustrated this in the attached alongside the timetable [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] sent over.
 Let us know your thoughts and happy to discuss at 3:30pm.
 Thanks,
 [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

16 June 2021, ‘RE: Forecast process FLG paper’, attachment:

		AFF 2021EFO timetable options		<u>16/06/2021</u>	
		OBR option - 8 days decision making	Alternative option - 11 days decision making		
		Forecast		Data	Days
Mon	5-Jul				114
Tue	6-Jul	Fiscal risks report			113
Wed	7-Jul				112
Thu	8-Jul				111
Fri	9-Jul				110
Sat	10-Jul				109
Sun	11-Jul				108
Mon	12-Jul				107
Tue	13-Jul				106
Wed	14-Jul				105
Thu	15-Jul				104
Fri	16-Jul				103
Sat	17-Jul				102
Sun	18-Jul				101
Mon	19-Jul				100
Tue	20-Jul				99

We d	21- Jul			PSF	98
Thu	22- Jul				97
Fri	23- Jul				96
Sat	24- Jul				95
Sun	25- Jul				94
Mon	26- Jul				93
Tue	27- Jul				92
We d	28- Jul				91
Thu	29- Jul				90
Fri	30- Jul	R1 Base	R1 Base		89
Sat	31- Jul				88
Sun	1- Au g				87
Mon	2- Au g				86
Tue	3- Au g				85
We d	4- Au g				84
Thu	5- Au g				83
Fri	6- Au g				82
Sat	7- Au g				81
Sun	8- Au g				80
Mon	9- Au g				79
Tue	10- Au g				78
We d	11- Au g				77
Thu	12- Au g				76
Fri	13- Au g				75
Sat	14- Au g				74
Sun	15- Au g				73
Mon	16- Au g				72

Tue	17- Au g				71
Wed	18- Au g	10 weeks	10 weeks		70
Thu	19- Au g				69
Fri	20- Au g			PSF	68
Sat	21- Au g				67
Sun	22- Au g				66
Mon	23- Au g				65
Tue	24- Au g				64
Wed	25- Au g				63
Thu	26- Au g				62
Fri	27- Au g				61
Sat	28- Au g				60
Sun	29- Au g				59
Mon	30- Au g				58
Tue	31- Au g				57
Wed	1- Se p				56
Thu	2- Se p		R1 Fiscal tables		55
Fri	3- Se p	R1 Fiscal tables			54
Sat	4- Se p				53
Sun	5- Se p				52
Mon	6- Se p				51
Tue	7- Se p		R2 Base and determinants		50
Wed	8- Se p	R2 Base and determinants			49

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10

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Thu	9- Sep				48
Fri	10- Sep			GDP estimate	47
Sat	11- Sep				46
Sun	12- Sep				45
Mon	13- Sep				44
Tue	14- Sep			Labour market	43
Wed	15- Sep			CPI	42
Thu	16- Sep				41
Fri	17- Sep				40
Sat	18- Sep				39
Sun	19- Sep				38
Mon	20- Sep		R2 Fiscal tables and forecast note		37
Tue	21- Sep			PSF	36
Wed	22- Sep	R2 Fiscal Tables and forecast note			35
Thu	23- Sep			MPC	34
Fri	24- Sep		R3 Base and determinants		33
Sat	25- Sep				32
Sun	26- Sep				31
Mon	27- Sep			HMRC receipts info	30
Tue	28- Sep	R3 Base and determinants			29
Wed	29- Sep				28
Thu	30- Sep		R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note	QNA	27
Fri	1- Oct			-	26
Sat	2- Oct			-	25

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Sun	3-Oct			-	24		
Mon	4-Oct			-	23		
Tue	5-Oct	R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note			22		
Wed	6-Oct			-	21		
Thu	7-Oct	MM 1 (Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 1 (Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)		20		
Fri	8-Oct			-	19		
Sat	9-Oct			-	18		
Sun	10-Oct			-	17		
Mon	11-Oct			GDP, Trade	16		
Tue	12-Oct	R4 Base and returns	R4 Base and returns	Labour market	15		
Wed	13-Oct	R4 Fiscal tables	R4 Fiscal tables		14		
Thu	14-Oct				13		
Fri	15-Oct	MM 2 (Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 2 (Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)		12		
Sat	16-Oct			-	11		
Sun	17-Oct			-	10		
Mon	18-Oct	Model input	Model input	-	9		
Tue	19-Oct	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close	-	8		
Wed	20-Oct	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	CPI	7		
Thu	21-Oct	Final scorecard	Final scorecard	PSF	6		
Fri	22-Oct	FINAL FISCAL TABLES	FINAL FISCAL TABLES		5		
Sat	23-Oct				4		
Sun	24-Oct				3		
Mon	25-Oct				2		
Tue	26-Oct				1		
Wed	27-Oct	Publish					
Thu	28-Oct						
Fri	29-Oct						
Sat	30-Oct						
Sun	31-Oct						

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From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Sent: 21 June 2021 16:31

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
 Subject: RE: Forecast process FLG paper

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR],
 Thanks for meeting on Thursday.

We have spoken to seniors again here. Internally, there is some concern over the Conservative party conference which falls from Sunday 3rd to Wednesday 6th. For that reason, they would like to keep R3 Fiscal on a Thursday in order to give time for meetings on the Friday.

Is there anyway to make the timetable work with R3 Fiscal on the Thursday for [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]? Appreciate [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] have already set out your reasons for why this is difficult – if it is an impasse, [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] think the next step will be to schedule another meeting with seniors (e.g Ruth, Ian, Stephen), and work from there. Let [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] know what [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think.

Thanks,
 [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

21 June 2021, 'RE: Forecast process FLG paper', attachment:

		AFF 2021EFO timetable options		16/06/202 1	
		OBR option - 8 days decision making	Alternative option - 11 days decision making		
		Forecast		Data	Days
Mon	5-Jul				114
Tue	6-Jul	Fiscal risks report			113
Wed	7-Jul				112
Thu	8-Jul				111
Fri	9-Jul				110
Sat	10-Jul				109
Sun	11-Jul				108
Mon	12-Jul				107
Tue	13-Jul				106
Wed	14-Jul				105
Thu	15-Jul				104
Fri	16-Jul				103
Sat	17-Jul				102
Sun	18-Jul				101
Mon	19-Jul				100
Tue	20-Jul				99
Wed	21-Jul			PSF	98
Thu	22-Jul				97
Fri	23-Jul				96

Sat	24-Jul				95
Sun	25-Jul				94
Mon	26-Jul				93
Tue	27-Jul				92
Wed	28-Jul				91
Thu	29-Jul				90
Fri	30-Jul	R1 Base	R1 Base		89
Sat	31-Jul				88
Sun	1-Aug				87
Mon	2-Aug				86
Tue	3-Aug				85
Wed	4-Aug				84
Thu	5-Aug				83
Fri	6-Aug				82
Sat	7-Aug				81
Sun	8-Aug				80
Mon	9-Aug				79
Tue	10-Aug				78
Wed	11-Aug				77
Thu	12-Aug				76
Fri	13-Aug				75
Sat	14-Aug				74
Sun	15-Aug				73
Mon	16-Aug				72
Tue	17-Aug				71
Wed	18-Aug	10 weeks	10 weeks		70

Thu	19- Au g				69
Fri	20- Au g			PSF	68
Sat	21- Au g				67
Sun	22- Au g				66
Mon	23- Au g				65
Tue	24- Au g				64
We d	25- Au g				63
Thu	26- Au g				62
Fri	27- Au g				61
Sat	28- Au g				60
Sun	29- Au g				59
Mon	30- Au g				58
Tue	31- Au g				57
We d	1- Se p				56
Thu	2- Se p		R1 Fiscal tables		55
Fri	3- Se p	R1 Fiscal tables			54
Sat	4- Se p				53
Sun	5- Se p				52
Mon	6- Se p				51
Tue	7- Se p		R2 Base and determinants		50
We d	8- Se p	R2 Base and determinants			49
Thu	9- Se p				48
Fri	10- Se p			GDP estimate	47

-9

-8

-7

Sat	11- Sep				46
Sun	12- Sep				45
Mon	13- Sep				44
Tue	14- Sep			Labour market	43
Wed	15- Sep			CPI	42
Thu	16- Sep				41
Fri	17- Sep				40
Sat	18- Sep				39
Sun	19- Sep				38
Mon	20- Sep		R2 Fiscal tables and forecast note		37
Tue	21- Sep			PSF	36
Wed	22- Sep	R2 Fiscal Tables and forecast note			35
Thu	23- Sep			MPC	34
Fri	24- Sep		R3 Base and determinants		33
Sat	25- Sep				32
Sun	26- Sep				31
Mon	27- Sep			HMRC receipts info	30
Tue	28- Sep	R3 Base and determinants			29
Wed	29- Sep				28
Thu	30- Sep		R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note	QNA	27
Fri	1- Oct			-	26
Sat	2- Oct			-	25
Sun	3- Oct			-	24
Mon	4- Oct			-	23

-6

-5

-4

Tue	5-Oct	R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note			22		
Wed	6-Oct			-	21		
Thu	7-Oct	MM 1 (Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 1 (Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)		20	-3	
Fri	8-Oct			-	19		
Sat	9-Oct			-	18		
Sun	10-Oct			-	17		
Mon	11-Oct			GDP, Trade	16		
Tue	12-Oct	R4 Base and returns	R4 Base and returns	Labour market	15		
Wed	13-Oct	R4 Fiscal tables	R4 Fiscal tables		14	-2	
Thu	14-Oct				13		
Fri	15-Oct	MM 2 (Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 2 (Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)		12		
Sat	16-Oct			-	11		
Sun	17-Oct			-	10		
Mon	18-Oct	Model input	Model input	-	9		
Tue	19-Oct	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close	-	8		
Wed	20-Oct	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	GPI	7	-1	
Thu	21-Oct	Final scorecard	Final scorecard	PSF	6		
Fri	22-Oct	FINAL FISCAL TABLES	FINAL FISCAL TABLES		5		
Sat	23-Oct				4		
Sun	24-Oct				3		
Mon	25-Oct				2		
Tue	26-Oct				1		
Wed	27-Oct	Publish					
Thu	28-Oct						
Fri	29-Oct						
Sat	30-Oct						
Sun	31-Oct						

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Sent: 23 June 2021 13:02
To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: RE: Forecast process FLG paper

Thanks [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT],

[Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think that reduces us to just 9 days of the entire process for fiscal forecast scrutiny (given R1 is not a proper round), which [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] doubt the BRC will be able to sign up to. Doesn't the conference fundamentally alter the MM1 process given timing, so we might need to think again on how that week works?

We really don't have the capacity to do much more on this before FRR as we're at the point of final drafts before going to print next week, so if we need a high level discussion we might need to wait until late next week.

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

Sent: 30 June 2021 13:07

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Subject: This afternoon

Hi both,

[Redacted – not in scope]

And on the timetable discussion, I'm afraid the BRC were very much aligned to our message in that the 15 day timetable option does not allow us to do the forecast to the standard we need – [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think Steve/Ruth will be catching up on this point too.

Thanks, [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Sent: 30 June 2021 18:39

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Subject: RE: This afternoon

Thanks, [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR].

On the timetable, [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] think if we cant get to 11 days, we cant quite sell less to the CX. Do [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think it will be helpful to have another chat with Steve/Ian/Ruth and us?

[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Sent: 7 July 2021 13:10

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] ; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Subject: Timetable

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR],

Please find attached the doc that was shared in the meeting.

It now shows the 8 day timetable [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] provided (C), a 10 day compromise option that was discussed in the meeting (D), and two 11 day options. It would be great if [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] could have a look at the 10 day option to see if there's a way to make it work.

Happy to discuss specifics in our catch up later as well.

Thanks,

[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

7 July 2021, 'Timetable', attachment:

AFF 2021EFO timetable options

07/07/2021

		8 days	10 days	11 days (option 1)	11 Days (option 2)	Data	Days	
Mon	5-Jul						114	
Tue	6-Jul	Fiscal risks report						113
Wed	7-Jul						112	
Thu	8-Jul						111	
Fri	9-Jul						110	
Sat	10-Jul						109	
Sun	11-Jul						108	
Mon	12-Jul						107	
Tue	13-Jul						106	
Wed	14-Jul						105	
Thu	15-Jul						104	
Fri	16-Jul						103	
Sat	17-Jul						102	
Sun	18-Jul						101	
Mon	19-Jul						100	
Tue	20-Jul						99	
Wed	21-Jul					PSF	98	
Thu	22-Jul						97	
Fri	23-Jul						96	
Sat	24-Jul						95	
Sun	25-Jul						94	
Mon	26-Jul						93	
Tue	27-Jul						92	
Wed	28-Jul						91	
Thu	29-Jul						90	
Fri	30-Jul	R1 Base		R1 Base			89	
Sat	31-Jul						88	
Sun	1-Aug						87	
Mon	2-Aug						86	
Tue	3-Aug						85	
Wed	4-Aug						84	
Thu	5-Aug						83	
Fri	6-Aug						82	
Sat	7-Aug						81	
Sun	8-Aug						80	
Mon	9-Aug						79	
Tue	10-Aug						78	
Wed	11-Aug						77	
Thu	12-Aug						76	
Fri	13-Aug						75	
Sat	14-Aug						74	
Sun	15-Aug						73	
Mon	16-Aug						72	
Tue	17-Aug						71	
Wed	18-Aug	10 weeks		10 weeks		10 weeks	70	
Thu	19-Aug						69	
Fri	20-Aug					PSF	68	
Sat	21-Aug						67	
Sun	22-Aug						66	
Mon	23-Aug						65	
Tue	24-Aug						64	
Wed	25-Aug						63	
Thu	26-Aug						62	
Fri	27-Aug						61	
Sat	28-Aug						60	
Sun	29-Aug						59	
Mon	30-Aug						58	
Tue	31-Aug						57	
Wed	1-Sep		R1 Fiscal tables		R1 Fiscal tables		56	
Thu	2-Sep						55	
Fri	3-Sep	R1 Fiscal tables		R1 Fiscal tables		R1 Fiscal tables	54	
Sat	4-Sep		3		3		53	
Sun	5-Sep						52	
Mon	6-Sep	3	R2 Base and determinants		R2 Base and determinants		51	
Tue	7-Sep						50	
Wed	8-Sep	R2 Base and determinants		R2 Base and determinants		R2 Base and determinants	49	
Thu	9-Sep						48	
Fri	10-Sep					GDP estimate	47	
Sat	11-Sep						46	
Sun	12-Sep						45	
Mon	13-Sep		10			9	44	
Tue	14-Sep						43	
Wed	15-Sep						42	
Thu	16-Sep	10					41	
Fri	17-Sep					R2 Fiscal tables and forecast note	40	
Sat	18-Sep						39	
Sun	19-Sep						38	
Mon	20-Sep		R2 Fiscal tables and forecast note		R2 Fiscal tables and forecast note		37	
Tue	21-Sep						36	
Wed	22-Sep	R2 Fiscal Tables and forecast note		R2 Fiscal tables and forecast note		R2 Fiscal tables and forecast note	35	
Thu	23-Sep		4		4		34	
Fri	24-Sep					R3 Base and determinants	33	
Sat	25-Sep	4	R3 Base and determinants		R3 Base and determinants		32	
Sun	26-Sep						31	
Mon	27-Sep						30	
Tue	28-Sep	R3 Base and determinants				4	29	
Wed	29-Sep						28	
Thu	30-Sep		5				27	
Fri	1-Oct	5	R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note		R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note		26	
Sat	2-Oct						25	
Sun	3-Oct						24	
Mon	4-Oct						23	
Tue	5-Oct	R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note					22	
Wed	6-Oct						21	
Thu	7-Oct	MM 1 (Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 1 (Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 1 (Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 1 (Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)		20	
Fri	8-Oct						19	
Sat	9-Oct						18	
Sun	10-Oct						17	
Mon	11-Oct					GDP, Trade	16	
Tue	12-Oct	R4 Base and returns	R4 Base and returns	R4 Base and returns	R4 Base and returns	Labour market	15	
Wed	13-Oct	R4 Fiscal tables	R4 Fiscal tables	R4 Fiscal tables	R4 Fiscal tables		14	
Thu	14-Oct						13	
Fri	15-Oct	MM 2 (Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 2 (Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 2 (Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	MM 2 (Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)		12	
Sat	16-Oct						11	
Sun	17-Oct						10	
Mon	18-Oct	Model input	Model input	Model input	Model input		9	
Tue	19-Oct	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close		8	
Wed	20-Oct	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	GPI	7	
Thu	21-Oct	Final scorecard	Final scorecard	Final scorecard	Final scorecard	PSF	6	
Fri	22-Oct	FINAL FISCAL TABLES	FINAL FISCAL TABLES	FINAL FISCAL TABLES	FINAL FISCAL TABLES		5	
Sat	23-Oct						4	
Sun	24-Oct						3	
Mon	25-Oct						2	
Tue	26-Oct						1	
Wed	27-Oct	Publish						
Thu	28-Oct							
Fri	29-Oct							
Sat	30-Oct							
Sun	31-Oct							

From: Curtice, Ruth - HMT
Sent: 12 July 2021 11:02
To: Farrington, Stephen
Cc: Gardiner, Laura; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: Meetings today

Hi,
 Hope you've all had a bit of break post FRR and the football didn't put too much of a dampner on it.
 With thanks to [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] I understand you think the 10 day option attached could work. We will update the Chancellor on that basis, and will share something in writing to make sure that we are all on the same page on the details. We should come back to this.
 Just for today with HMRC, I'd be happy to share the attached with them as a work in progress, or we can just talk around it. Whatever you prefer- let me know?
 [Redacted – not in scope]
 Ruth

12 July 2021, 'Meetings today', attachment:

AFF 2021EFO timetable options

12/07/2021

10 days

			Data	Days
Mon	05-Jul			114
Tue	06-Jul			113
Wed	07-Jul			112
Thu	08-Jul			111
Fri	09-Jul			110
Sat	10-Jul			109
Sun	11-Jul			108
Mon	12-Jul			107
Tue	13-Jul			106
Wed	14-Jul			105
Thu	15-Jul			104
Fri	16-Jul			103
Sat	17-Jul			102
Sun	18-Jul			101
Mon	19-Jul			100
Tue	20-Jul			99
Wed	21-Jul		PSF	98
Thu	22-Jul			97
Fri	23-Jul			96
Sat	24-Jul			95
Sun	25-Jul			94
Mon	26-Jul			93
Tue	27-Jul			92
Wed	28-Jul			91
Thu	29-Jul			90
Fri	30-Jul	R1 Base		89
Sat	31-Jul			88
Sun	01-Aug			87

Mon	02-Aug			86
Tue	03-Aug			85
Wed	04-Aug			84
Thu	05-Aug			83
Fri	06-Aug			82
Sat	07-Aug			81
Sun	08-Aug			80
Mon	09-Aug			79
Tue	10-Aug			78
Wed	11-Aug			77
Thu	12-Aug			76
Fri	13-Aug			75
Sat	14-Aug			74
Sun	15-Aug			73
Mon	16-Aug			72
Tue	17-Aug			71
Wed	18-Aug	10 weeks		70
Thu	19-Aug			69
Fri	20-Aug		PSF	68
Sat	21-Aug			67
Sun	22-Aug			66
Mon	23-Aug			65
Tue	24-Aug			64
Wed	25-Aug			63
Thu	26-Aug			62
Fri	27-Aug			61
Sat	28-Aug			60
Sun	29-Aug			59
Mon	30-Aug			58
Tue	31-Aug			57
Wed	01-Sep	R1 Fiscal tables		56
Thu	02-Sep			55
Fri	03-Sep			54
Sat	04-Sep			53

-10

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Sun	05-Sep			52	
Mon	06-Sep	R2 Base and determinants		51	
Tue	07-Sep			50	
Wed	08-Sep			49	
Thu	09-Sep			48	-7
Fri	10-Sep		GDP estimate	47	
Sat	11-Sep			46	
Sun	12-Sep			45	
Mon	13-Sep			44	
Tue	14-Sep		Labour market	43	
Wed	15-Sep		CPI	42	-6
Thu	16-Sep			41	
Fri	17-Sep			40	
Sat	18-Sep			39	
Sun	19-Sep			38	
Mon	20-Sep	R2 Fiscal tables and forecast note		37	
Tue	21-Sep		PSF	36	
Wed	22-Sep			35	
Thu	23-Sep		MPC	34	-5
Fri	24-Sep	R3 Base and determinants		33	
Sat	25-Sep			32	
Sun	26-Sep			31	
Mon	27-Sep		HMRC receipts info	30	
Tue	28-Sep			29	
Wed	29-Sep			28	
Thu	30-Sep		QNA	27	-4
Fri	01-Oct	R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note	-	26	
Sat	02-Oct		-	25	
Sun	03-Oct		-	24	
Mon	04-Oct		-	23	
Tue	05-Oct			22	
Wed	06-Oct		-	21	
Thu	07-Oct	MM 1(Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)		20	-3
Fri	08-Oct		-	19	

Sat	09-Oct		-	18	
Sun	10-Oct		-	17	
Mon	11-Oct		GDP, Trade	16	
Tue	12-Oct	R4 Base and returns	Labour market	15	
Wed	13-Oct	R4 Fiscal tables		14	-2
Thu	14-Oct			13	
Fri	15-Oct	MM 2(Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)		12	
Sat	16-Oct		-	11	
Sun	17-Oct		-	10	
Mon	18-Oct	Model input	-	9	
Tue	19-Oct	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close	-	8	
Wed	20-Oct	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	CPI	7	-1
Thu	21-Oct	Final scorecard	PSF	6	
Fri	22-Oct	FINAL FISCAL TABLES		5	
Sat	23-Oct			4	
Sun	24-Oct			3	
Mon	25-Oct			2	
Tue	26-Oct			1	
Wed	27-Oct				
Thu	28-Oct				
Fri	29-Oct				
Sat	30-Oct				
Sun	31-Oct				

From: Farrington, Stephen
Sent: 12 July 2021 11:07
To: Curtice, Ruth - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Cc: Gardiner, Laura; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Subject: Forecast timetable

Ruth,

We've had further discussions, including with the BRC, about the forecast timetable. The Chancellor's request for an 2-week decision period between the completion of our pre-measures forecast and the major measures deadline was not envisaged when the terms of the MoU were agreed. But we propose to accommodate the Chancellor's request by:

- Compiling the Round 1 economy forecast in late July so that departments can deliver returns flexibly and OBR staff put together fiscal tables around childcare and leave plans over the summer holidays. The R1 economy and fiscal forecast will as a result be subject to greater than usual revision in later rounds.
- Compressing the time available for OBR staff and the BRC to consider the economy forecast, scrutinise fiscal forecast fiscal returns, sign-off policy costings.
- Assigning weekends in September as working days for OBR staff.
- Adding an additional post-measures forecast round to ensure a mutual understanding of the indirect effects of major measures ahead of finalising the forecast.

The longer gap between the completion of our pre-measures forecast and the Budget date increases the likelihood that – consistent with our remit - we may need to explain the impact of data releases in the four weeks prior to publication on our assessment of the economic and fiscal outlook. You have confirmed that the Chancellor is aware of, and understands this risk.

I think that leaves two outstanding considerations to resolve so that we can confirm the timetable and start the forecast process:

- We should consider the choreography and expectations around the new R4 process. We need to clarify the timing of receiving and certifying policy measures, and enough time for due consideration of DEL returns and underspends and indirect effects. Policy costings for major measures will need to be signed off ahead of the major measures deadline in order to provide the Chancellor with the stable base he desires to make decisions.
- And, as usual, we require a public announcement in order to start the process. This will need to be sooner than the normal ten weeks to accommodate the need to start earlier and engage with departments who need to re-prioritise forecast returns outside their normal expectations.

[Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] will arrange a FLG for next week for the timetable to be confirmed with all departments ahead of the circulation of the first set of forecast determinants.

steve



Steve Farrington
 Chief of Staff
 14T, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ
 [Redacted – phone number/email address – OBR]

12 July 2021, 'Forecast timetable', attachment:

AFF 2021EFO timetable options

12/07/2021

			Data	Days
Mon	5-Jul			114
Tue	6-Jul			113
Wed	7-Jul			112
Thu	8-Jul			111
Fri	9-Jul			110
Sat	10-Jul			109

Sun	11-Jul			108
Mon	12-Jul			107
Tue	13-Jul			106
Wed	14-Jul			105
Thu	15-Jul			104
Fri	16-Jul			103
Sat	17-Jul			102
Sun	18-Jul			101
Mon	19-Jul			100
Tue	20-Jul			99
Wed	21-Jul		PSF	98
Thu	22-Jul			97
Fri	23-Jul			96
Sat	24-Jul			95
Sun	25-Jul			94
Mon	26-Jul			93
Tue	27-Jul			92
Wed	28-Jul			91
Thu	29-Jul			90
Fri	30-Jul	R1 Base		89
Sat	31-Jul			88
Sun	1-Aug			87
Mon	2-Aug			86
Tue	3-Aug			85
Wed	4-Aug			84
Thu	5-Aug			83
Fri	6-Aug			82
Sat	7-Aug			81
Sun	8-Aug			80
Mon	9-Aug			79
Tue	10-Aug			78
Wed	11-Aug			77
Thu	12-Aug			76
Fri	13-Aug			75
Sat	14-Aug			74
Sun	15-Aug			73
Mon	16-Aug			72
Tue	17-Aug			71
Wed	18-Aug	10 weeks		70
Thu	19-Aug			69
Fri	20-Aug	Returns	PSF	68
Sat	21-Aug			67
Sun	22-Aug			66
Mon	23-Aug			65
Tue	24-Aug			64
Wed	25-Aug			63

-10

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Thu	26-Aug			62	
Fri	27-Aug			61	
Sat	28-Aug			60	
Sun	29-Aug			59	
Mon	30-Aug			58	
Tue	31-Aug			57	
Wed	1-Sep	R1 Fiscal tables		56	
Thu	2-Sep			55	-8
Fri	3-Sep			54	
Sat	4-Sep	ECONOMY WEEKEND		53	
Sun	5-Sep			52	
Mon	6-Sep	R2 Base and determinants		51	
Tue	7-Sep			50	
Wed	8-Sep	R2 returns		49	-7
Thu	9-Sep			48	
Fri	10-Sep		GDP estimate	47	
Sat	11-Sep			46	
Sun	12-Sep			45	
Mon	13-Sep			44	
Tue	14-Sep		Labour market	43	
Wed	15-Sep		CPI	42	-6
Thu	16-Sep			41	
Fri	17-Sep			40	
Sat	18-Sep	FISCAL WEEKEND		39	
Sun	19-Sep			38	
Mon	20-Sep	R2 Fiscal tables and forecast note		37	
Tue	21-Sep		PSF	36	
Wed	22-Sep			35	-5
Thu	23-Sep		MPG	34	
Fri	24-Sep	R3 Base and determinants		33	
Sat	25-Sep			32	
Sun	26-Sep			31	
Mon	27-Sep	R3 returns	HMRC receipts info	30	
Tue	28-Sep			29	
Wed	29-Sep			28	
Thu	30-Sep		QNA	27	-4
Fri	1-Oct	R3 Fiscal tables (final pre-measures fiscal forecast) forecast note	-	26	
Sat	2-Oct		-	25	

Sun	3-Oct		-	24	
Mon	4-Oct		-	23	
Tue	5-Oct		-	22	
Wed	6-Oct		-	21	-3
Thu	7-Oct	MM 1 (Round 4 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)	-	20	
Fri	8-Oct		-	19	
Sat	9-Oct		-	18	
Sun	10-Oct		-	17	
Mon	11-Oct		GDP, Trade	16	
Tue	12-Oct	R4 Base and returns	Labour market	15	
Wed	13-Oct	R4 Fiscal tables		14	-2
Thu	14-Oct			13	
Fri	15-Oct	MM 2 (Round 5 Economy moving measures and SR bottom lines by close)		12	
Sat	16-Oct		-	11	
Sun	17-Oct		-	10	
Mon	18-Oct	Model input	-	9	
Tue	19-Oct	R5 base and returns & Preliminary scorecard by close	-	8	
Wed	20-Oct	R5 Fiscal Tables (inc. preliminary scorecard)	GPI	7	-1
Thu	21-Oct	Final scorecard	PSE	6	
Fri	22-Oct	FINAL FISCAL TABLES		5	
Sat	23-Oct			4	
Sun	24-Oct			3	
Mon	25-Oct			2	
Tue	26-Oct			1	
Wed	27-Oct				
Thu	28-Oct				
Fri	29-Oct				
Sat	30-Oct				
Sun	31-Oct				

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Sent: 29 July 2021 15:56
To: Gardiner, Laura; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]
Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]
Subject: FLG 02/08

Hi both,
Just checking in ahead of the FLG on Monday. Have [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] thought about how [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] would like to run it yet and is there a potential agenda?
We've put together a short note which we thought might be useful on the main forecast changes to be agreed. Would [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] like any HMT seniors to talk through these proposed changes or are [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] happy to take it from your side?
Thanks,
[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

29 July 2021, 'FLG 02/08', attachment:

Forecast Liaison Group (FLG)

Summary:

The Chancellor has commissioned a forecast for October 27th. This note outlines a proposed forecast timetable to be agreed between HMT, the OBR, HMRC and DWP.

The Chancellor has requested to improve effective decision making within the forecast process without compromising forecast quality or credibility. Consequently, we would like to operate a new 5 round forecast process comprising of three pre-measures and two post-measure rounds with increased time for the Chancellor to make policy decisions on the basis of a stable view of the economic and fiscal outlook.

Timetable

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Week
26 July	27	28	29	30 R1 Base	T-13
2 August	3	4	5	6	T-12
16	17	18	19	20 PSF	T-10
30	31	1 September R1 Fiscal	2	3	T-8
6 R2 Econ	7	8	9	10 GDP Est.	T-7
13	14 Labour Market	15 CPI	16	17	T-6
20 R2 Fiscal	21 PSF	22	23	24 R3 Econ	T-5
27	28	29	30	1 st October R3 Fiscal	T-4
4	5	6	7 Major Measures 1	8	T-3
11	12 R4 Economy	13 R4 Fiscal tables	14	15 Major Measures 2	T-2
18	19 R5 Economy	20 R5 Fiscal	21 Final Scorecard	2 Final Fiscal Tables	T-1
25	26	27 Forecast published	2	29	T

Forecast changes

- 1) **R1:** Round 1 Economy will be taking place earlier than usual within the forecast process, and will be sent to HMT on 30th July. This is to accommodate workforce capacity over the summer.
- 2) **Increasing decision making time for the Chancellor:** The gap between the final pre-measures fiscal forecast and Major Measures will be increased to 2 weeks, or 10 working days. This is to provide more time for the Chancellor to consider policy decisions once he has received the final pre-measures fiscal forecast.
- 3) **Stable pre-measures base:** No new data or news will be included after the final pre-measures round to ensure a stable base for policy decisions to be made. This means that the MPC announcement on the 23rd September and the Quarterly National Accounts release on the 30th September will not be included in the pre-measures forecast

In exceptional circumstances where there are unexpected significant datapoints or news that needs to be included, the forecast could stay open, but this would need explicit agreement from both HMT and the OBR.

4) **Improving the estimation of the indirect effects:**

- a. HMT and the OBR have already started to engage on focus group processes, and will continue to review the indirect effects process with the aim of having a consistent understanding of expected indirect effects from policies.
- b. An extra post measures round will take place in between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures for the Chancellor to test his policy package and the indirect effects of policies. This will be an official's round, rather than a formal round. Instead of receiving a note from the BRC, the Chancellor will be advised by officials on the return.

From: Perelman, Elizabeth - HMT

Sent: 29 July 2021 09:55

To: Hughes, Richard

Cc: York-Smith, Dan - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Scholar, Tom - HMT; Lombardelli, Clare - HMT; King, Andy; Bean, Charles

Subject: Economic and fiscal forecast

Richard,

The Chancellor wanted to notify you that we have set a date for the OBR to prepare an economic and fiscal forecast, which will be presented on 27 October. We have also written to the Chair of the Treasury Select Committee to notify him.

Ahead of setting this date, the Chancellor was grateful to hear of the changes you have agreed to what has become the usual forecast process in order to provide the Chancellor with two weeks of decision making time between receiving your final pre-measures fiscal forecast and taking major measures policy decisions.

Many thanks,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Perelman | Principal Private Secretary to the Chancellor
HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ
[Redacted – phone number/email address – HMT]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

Sent: 30 July 2021 10:28

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Gardiner, Laura

Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Subject: RE: FLG 02/08

Hi [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT],

We won't get the chance to run this past the BRC until Monday, but here's my initial thoughts on what we might need to cover (with some notes for context in some places). We're asking people here for comments across today and will run past Richard on Monday morning.

Forecast timetable and summary of changes

Type of **policy event** – should we anticipate tax and SR decisions throughout the process and when to expect to firm up the costings deadlines/indirect effects process. Do they anticipate this timetable holding on all variations of the type of policy event (sub-optimal to have three weeks between R3 and printing if no policy decisions)

NPI assumptions – HMT to update (OBR mention discussions with SPI-M etc to continue). Mention the difference between non-data updates that affect the forecast (Roadmap, NPI tightening etc.)

Fiscal rules review – HMT to update

Supply side review – OBR to update?

OBR scenarios – OBR to discuss

MoU review – HMT

[Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think it would be good for the timetable changes intro to come from HMT – happy to then run through the resulting timetable, but it might be a bit weird to switch from the substance to listing dates so maybe whoever is doing it could do the whole item? We will also prime Richard to mention our support for the additional round at the end at the expense of data updates, so that there is an OBR perspective on the changes.

Thanks, [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

Sent: 05 August 2021 10:58

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Gardiner, Laura

Cc: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Subject: RE: FLG 02/08

Hi all,

We ran through the proposed agenda with Richard and he's happy with what we put together and discussed recently (including acknowledging if there isn't much to say at this stage). [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR] think the items are assigned as follows:

Richard introduction (then introduce each item before handing over to item lead)

Timetable and summary of changes (HMT)

Policy event and Major measures rounds (HMT)

NPI assumptions (HMT)

Fiscal rules (HMT)

Supply stocktake (OBR)

Scenarios and fan charts (OBR)

MoU review (HMT)

Anything to add? [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT], can [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] send the agenda and timetable in the scheduler?

Thanks, [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Sent: 05 August 2021 12:52

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Curtice, Ruth - HMT; Josephs, Tom - HMT; Benford, James - HMT; York-Smith, Dan - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Smewing, Conrad - HMT; Harston, Johanna - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]; Hughes, Richard; Bean, Charles; King, Andy; Farrington, Stephen; Gardiner, Laura; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]; HMRC_Peters, Katy; HMRC_Whittaker, Jane; Davies, Tom

Cc: Lombardelli, Clare - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Connolly, Maeve - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]; [Redacted – Section 40 – DWP]

Subject: RE: Forecast Liaison Group

Hi all

The agenda for the FLG this afternoon is below. Please also find attached a note outlining the proposed forecast process for this Autumn.

Agenda:

- **Timetable and summary of changes**
- **Policy event and Major measures rounds**
- **Scenarios and fan charts**
- **Supply stocktake**
- **NPI assumptions**
- **Fiscal rules**
- **MoU review**

Thanks

[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

5 August 2021, 'RE: Forecast Liaison Group', attachment:

Forecast Liaison Group (FLG)

Summary:

The Chancellor has commissioned a forecast for October 27th. This note outlines a proposed forecast timetable to be agreed between HMT, the OBR, HMRC and DWP.

The Chancellor has requested to improve effective decision making within the forecast process without compromising forecast quality or credibility. Consequently, we would like to operate a new 5 round forecast process comprising of three pre-measures and two post-measure rounds with increased time for the Chancellor to make policy decisions on the basis of a stable view of the economic and fiscal outlook.

Timetable

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6 R2 Econ	7	8 R2 Returns	9	10 GDP Est.	T-7
13	14 Labour Market	15 CPI	16	17	T-6

20 R2 Fiscal	21 PSF	22	23	24 R3 Econ	T-5
27 R3 Returns	28	29	30	1 October R3 Fiscal	T-4
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25	26	27 Forecast published	2	29	T

Forecast changes

- 1) **R1:** Round 1 Economy has taken place earlier than usual within the forecast process, and will be sent to HMT on 30th July. This is to accommodate workforce capacity over the summer.
- 2) **Increasing decision making time for the Chancellor:** The gap between the final pre-measures fiscal forecast and Major Measures will be increased to 2 weeks, or 10 working days. This is to provide more time for the Chancellor to consider policy decisions once he has received the final pre-measures fiscal forecast.
- 3) **Stable pre-measures base:** No new data or news will be included after the final pre-measures round to ensure a stable base for policy decisions to be made. This means that the MPC announcement on the 23rd September and the Quarterly National Accounts release on the 30th September will not be included in the pre-measures forecast

In exceptional circumstances where there are unexpected significant datapoints or news that needs to be included, the forecast could stay open, but this would need explicit agreement from both HMT and the OBR.

- 4) **Improving the estimation of the indirect effects:**
 - a. HMT and the OBR have already started to engage on focus group processes, and will continue to review the indirect effects process with the aim of having a consistent understanding of expected indirect effects from policies.
 - b. An extra post measures round will take place in between the final pre-measures round and Major Measures for the Chancellor to test his policy package and the indirect effects of policies.

From: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]

Sent: 13 August 2021 15:15

To: [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Curtice, Ruth - HMT; Josephs, Tom - HMT; Benford, James - HMT; York-Smith, Dan - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Smewing, Conrad - HMT; Harston, Johanna - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]; Hughes, Richard; Bean, Charles; King, Andy; Farrington, Stephen; Gardiner, Laura; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]; HMRC_Peters, Katy; HMRC_Whittaker, Jane; Davies, Tom

Cc: Lombardelli, Clare - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; Connolly, Maeve - HMT; [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]; [Redacted – Section 40 – OBR]; [Redacted – Section 40 – DWP]

Subject: RE: Forecast Liaison Group

Subject: RE: Forecast Liaison Group

Afternoon,

Thanks all for a constructive meeting. Please find below a readout from the FLG.

Do let [Redacted – Section 40 – HMT] know if anything isn't clear.

Timetable and summary of changes

- DWP/KAI very grateful for time in August between R1 Econ and returns deadline to alleviate work pressures.
- DWP want to look over in detail given staffing changes their side, will flag any major concerns.

[Redacted – not in scope]

Best wishes,

[Redacted – Section 40 – HMT]