

OFFICIAL



HM Treasury

Sir Dave Ramsden

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Robert Chote
Chairman
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PRE- RELEASE ACCESS TO NOVEMBER 2016 ECONOMIC AND FISCAL OUTLOOK

Autumn Statement 2016 will be published on Wednesday 23 November, concurrently with the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and fiscal outlook. The Government intends to adopt the OBR's economic and fiscal forecasts as the official forecasts for Autumn Statement 2016. The Chancellor will make a statement and the Treasury will publish the Autumn Statement document that will draw on the material you publish in the Economic and fiscal outlook.

As a result, I am writing to formally request exceptional pre-release access to a draft copy of your document, ahead of the final document you will send 24 hours prior to publication. We would ideally require a copy by 12.30pm on Friday 18 November 2016. This will provide sufficient time for a near-final version of the relevant material to be incorporated into the Autumn Statement document and associated products. This access is in line with the relevant revised section of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Office for National Statistics pre-release rules that you have adopted for OBR publications.

We commit to the revised MoU requirements and as such access to the document will be restricted to those that require it for operational purposes and for information and factual comments only. To ensure compliance with the MoU we will stress these requirements to all recipients. In line with this, the Permanent Secretary has provided a firm reminder to Treasury staff about the importance of handling Autumn Statement related information with the utmost sensitivity and of the continued ban on the pre-release of core fiscal event information. We have also strengthened our existing processes to ensure that comments sent to the OBR are consistent with the revised MoU requirements.

The revised MoU requires the OBR to publish a list of the individuals that receive earlier access, though the names of junior officials are to be withheld. Attached to this letter is a list of named officials requiring access.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Ramsden

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OBR *Economic and fiscal outlook*: Pre-Release Access List – HMT Ministers and Officials

List to receive copy of document on Friday 18 November.

Ministers

Chancellor

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Officials

Permanent Secretary – Tom Scholar

Second Permanent Secretary – Charles Roxburgh

Director General, Chief Economic Adviser – Dave Ramsden

Director General, Tax and Welfare – James Bowler

Director General, Public Spending and Finance – Julian Kelly

Director, Fiscal – Richard Hughes

Director, Strategy, Planning and Budget – Clare Lombardelli

Director, Personal Tax Welfare and Pensions – Beth Russell

Deputy Director, Fiscal Statistics and Policy – Chris Drane

Deputy Director, Strategy, Planning and Budget – Richard Williams

Deputy Director, Economic Assessment – Stephen Farrington

Deputy Director, General Expenditure Policy – Stuart Glassborow

Deputy Director, Welfare Spending & Reform – David Silk

Deputy Director, Macroeconomic Co-ordination and Strategy – Dan Gallagher

Official preparing Autumn Statement document (economy)

Official preparing Autumn Statement document (fiscal)

Official preparing briefing (economy)

Official preparing briefing (fiscal forecast)

Official preparing briefing (fiscal forecast)

Official preparing briefing (fiscal forecast)

Official preparing briefing (fiscal policy)

Official preparing briefing (fiscal policy)

Official preparing briefing (spending)

Official preparing briefing (spending)

Official preparing briefing (spending)

Official preparing briefing (welfare)

Official preparing briefing (policy costings)

Duty Press Officers

Head of Communications – Dan York-Smith

Press officer

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Special Advisors

Poppy Trowbridge

Karen Ward