

19 March 2021

Supplementary forecast information release

Coronavirus job retention scheme: gross monthly cost

- 1.1 The OBR is releasing this information following a request for further detail on the information presented in our March 2021 *Economic and fiscal outlook (EFO)* in respect of our forecast for the gross monthly cost of the coronavirus job retention scheme (CJRS). We will, as far as possible, meet any requests to release supplementary forecast information where this will improve the quality of public debate on the public finances. Our full release policy is available on our website.
- 1.2 We discussed the forecast for the CJRS in paragraphs 3.86 to 3.88 and Box 3.4 of the March 2021 *EFO*. We also published our forecast for the number of CJRS claims in each month from January to September 2021 in supplementary expenditure table 3.25.
- 1.3 Table 1.1 shows the monthly cost of the scheme for those same months, consistent with our published assumptions on the numbers of claims. These also show the pattern described in paragraph 3.88 of the March 2021 *EFO*, with the cost of the extension announced in the Budget falling progressively from £3.0 billion in April to as low as £0.7 billion in September. The cost of the scheme falls faster than the number of claims due to the reduced generosity of the scheme from July onwards and to a steadily increasing proportion of all claims being for part-time rather than full-time furloughs.

Table 1.1: Gross accrued monthly cost of the CJRS

	£ million								
	Forecast								
	Jan 2021	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Gross monthly cost	3,847	4,043	3,772	3,004	2,495	2,180	1,365	1,055	740

Note: The data in this table shows the CJRS monthly cost forecast underpinning the figures shown in Table 3.14 of the March 2021 *Economic and fiscal outlook*, and is consistent with the numbers published. It has not been updated to reflect subsequently released HMRC or ONS outturns.