

Minutes of the OBR thinktank roundtable

22 September 2025

Attending:

Panel members: National Institute of Economic & Social Research, Resolution Foundation, Institute for Government, and Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Budget Responsibility Committee: Richard Hughes, Tom Josephs, and Prof. David Miles CBE.
Staff of the OBR

1. The UK impact of US tariffs – National Institute of Economic & Social Research

NIESR presented on possible GDP impacts of US tariff policy, including modelled impacts on UK exports and impacts under different tariff scenarios. They invited questions covering the effects of uncertainty and the possible feed-through to productivity.

2. The impact of tax and regulatory policy changes – Resolution Foundation

The Resolution Foundation presented on the possible effects of the *Employment Rights Bill* and increases in the National Living Wage and employer National Insurance contributions on wages, employment, and inflation. They also discussed the impacts of planning reform and invited questions on the scale and timing of impacts.

3. Public Sector productivity – Institute for Fiscal Studies

The Institute for Fiscal Studies presented on the Government's plans for public sector productivity improvements and how these compare to past changes. They also discussed implications for the public finances and GDP. They invited questions covering the quality adjustment of public sector output and the level of detail in plans.

4. Scoring supply side changes – Institute for Government

The Institute for Government discussed the possible risks of scoring supply-side changes for the OBR and the quality of wider policymaking, and made recommendations on how to mitigate these. They invited the OBR's views on these recommendations as well as wider feedback. There was also discussion of the role of the OBR in light of the Government's commitment to hold a single fiscal event each year.