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Dear Mike,

The November 2023 *Economic and fiscal outlook* and the October 2023 Labour Force Survey dataset

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has not requested regular pre-release access to statistics. However, we have, periodically, sought and received exceptional pre-release access to specific releases to facilitate production of our forecasts ahead of Budgets and other fiscal statements. In these cases, the forecasts that have benefitted from the pre-release access are not published until well after the data in question. We do not use pre-release access to comment on data at the point of publication.

As you will also be aware, the Chancellor requested on 5 September that we publish an economic and fiscal forecast on 22 November to accompany his Autumn Statement. As part of every forecasting process, we provide the Chancellor with a series of interim drafts of our forecasts as an input into policymaking in the run-up to the final, published *Economic and fiscal outlook*. We have published the timetable which sets out this process on our website which shows that we will send the Round 3 fiscal forecast to the Chancellor on 31 October and we will need to produce the economy forecast that feeds into the fiscal forecast well in advance of this.¹

The dataset associated with the Labour Force Survey for the three months to August will be published on Tuesday 24 October and will inform the starting point for our labour market forecast which feeds into the official forecast for the public finances. The OBR is therefore requesting exceptional pre-release access to the dataset on Thursday 19 October.

We would limit the number of recipients to the minimum necessary. This would consist of the three members of the Budget Responsibility Committee, the OBR's two Chiefs of Staff, and the 10 OBR officials who would attend the relevant economy forecast discussions with our Budget Responsibility Committee.



Richard Hughes
Chair

¹ https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/November_2023_timetable.pdf