

Robert Chote
Chairman
Office for Budget Responsibility
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13 January 2016

Dear Robert,

Budget 2017 forecast timetable and the February Month 2 GDP release and related releases

Thank you for your letter of 12 January 2017 where you asked if it was possible to bring forward, by one day to 22 February 2017, the publication of the following releases to assist in the preparations for the Budget that will take place on 8 March 2017:

1. Quarter 4 2016 Second Estimate of GDP
2. Quarter 4 2016 Business Investment provisional results.
3. December 2016 Index of Services.

You also asked if the relevant OBR staff and three members of the Budget Responsibility Committee could have 48 hours pre-release access to the publications.

ONS recognises the importance of including the latest economic data in the forecasts being developed for the March 2017 Budget. I am therefore pleased to confirm that ONS will publish these economic statistics on 22 February, one day earlier than previously scheduled, to assist in this. ONS will also provide 48 hours pre-release access to the data, as requested.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Athow

Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics | Office for National Statistics