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Dear Mike,

**The November 2022 *Economic and fiscal outlook* and the Q2 2022
Quarterly National Accounts 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 26 September that we publish an economic and fiscal forecast on 23 November to accompany his Medium-Term Fiscal Plan. 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*. The Chancellor has requested that we provide the first draft of our forecast next week. This will require us to complete a draft economy forecast on Wednesday 5 October, to act as an input to an interim round of our fiscal forecast, which we will send to the Chancellor on Friday 7 October.

The dataset associated with the second quarterly estimate for GDP in Q2 2022 will be published on 30 September and will provide the starting point for our economy forecast which underpins the official forecast for the public finances. By incorporating your upcoming Blue Book 2022 revisions, it will also improve our understanding of past trends in economic statistics and the buoyancy of tax receipts. The OBR is therefore requesting exceptional pre-release access to these releases from 1400 on Wednesday 28 September (around 41 hours in advance of publication).

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 13 OBR officials who would attend the relevant economy forecast discussions with our Budget Responsibility Committee. In broad terms, the pre-release access will allow one working day for processing and analysis by staff, one working day for discussion with the Budget Responsibility Committee and for judgements to be taken, and three working days (after the ONS has published the data) for those judgements to be implemented in the economy forecast before it is distributed to the OBR's fiscal analysts.



Richard Hughes
Chair