



Treasury Committee

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Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Via email

1 October 2020

Dear Rishi

Thank you for your letter of 11 September confirming that you have asked the OBR to prepare an economic update and fiscal forecast to be published in mid- to late November. I am pleased that this means there will be time for the second forecast required by law before the end of the financial year. Given the Government's unprecedented efforts to support the economy this year and the COVID-19-related downturn that we are experiencing, the Treasury Committee is going to be particularly interested in the OBR's assessment of the public finances and the economic outlook.

Last week you announced that the Budget will be deferred to spring 2021. An important benefit of an autumn budget is that it provides certainty in good time before the start of the tax year. The delay has caused difficulty for devolved administrations needing to set their own budgets, along with any changes to devolved taxes, in time for the end of the financial year, at a time when they are also working hard on the coronavirus response. I would be most grateful if you could let me know what arrangement you are putting in place to mitigate the effect of the delay to the Budget on devolved administrations, including details of any consultation that may have taken place before the decision was made.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon. Mel Stride MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee