



Treasury Committee

House of Commons, Committee Office, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 5769 Email treascom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/treascom

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
via email

7 June 2023

Dear Jeremy,

Appointments to the Office for Budget Responsibility

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) announced on 5 June that Andy King would be stepping down from the Budget Responsibility Committee (BRC) on 31 August 2023, the end of his current term. The press release states that “HM Treasury will launch the recruitment process for Andy’s successor on the OBR’s Budget Responsibility Committee shortly”.¹

As you know, under Schedule 1 of the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011, appointments to the BRC may not be made without the consent of the Treasury Committee.²

Given the likely timescale for a recruitment process followed by the Treasury Committee’s pre-appointment scrutiny, it appears probable that there will be a vacancy on the BRC for a period following Andy King’s departure. If the Committee declines consent to the appointment of the Treasury’s nominee there would be the prospect of a longer period, in the lead-up to the Autumn Statement, of the BRC operating without its fiscal expert.

In its 2018 Report on Andy King’s appointment to the BRC, the Treasury Committee concluded:

The Treasury Committee has previously recommended that nominations to the BRC be made by the Chancellor **at least four and a half months** before the existing postholder steps down, to leave sufficient time for an alternative name to be put forward were the Committee not to consent to the appointment. This recommendation has been supported by both the Treasury and the Chair of the BRC. It is therefore disappointing that the nomination of Andy King was made just two months—and six sitting weeks—before Graham Parker’s intended departure. The Chancellor’s failure to adhere to the Committee’s recommended timetable risks damaging the OBR’s ability to meet its statutory duties.³

Andy King was required to give three months’ notice.⁴ **Will you require Andy King’s successor to give a longer period of notice to reduce the chances of this business continuity risk to the OBR arising again?**

¹ OBR press release, [Andy King to step down from Budget Responsibility Committee](#), 5 June 2023

² Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011, [Schedule 1](#)

³ Treasury Committee, Eighteenth Report of Session 2017–19, [Appointment of Andy King to the Budget Responsibility Committee of the OBR](#), para 9

⁴ [Andy King’s contract](#)

In line with the Committee's usual practice, I will be placing this letter and your response in the public domain. I am copying this letter to Richard Hughes, Chair of the OBR.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H-Baldwin'.

Harriett Baldwin MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee

CC Richard Hughes, Chair, OBR