

3 August 2015

Ref: FOI2015/11491

## Freedom of Information Act 2000: Autumn Statement 2014

Further to our letter of 6 July, I can now advise that HM Treasury has come to a decision about the public interest in respect of your Freedom of Information request of 7 June

You asked for the following information –

*"Thank you for your response to my recent FOI request, reference number 07654. I wish to refine the request as follows.*

*I am requesting information under the FOI Act on the OBR's report accompanying last December's autumn statement.*

*Please disclose all correspondence between the Treasury and the OBR from May 2014 to date regarding the OBR's forecast that projected spending by central government on public services was going to fall from 21.2 per cent of gross domestic product in 2009-10 to 12.6 per cent in 2019-20, which as a proportion of GDP would probably take spending on public services to its lowest level since the 1930s."*

We wrote to you on 6 July saying we needed some additional time to consider the public interest balance in relation to the information you requested. We have concluded that the public interest lies in releasing this information and I am enclosing the information in scope of your request with this letter.

We are protecting the names and contact details of officials below senior civil service level under section 40 (personal data) of the Act as they are junior officials who do not have a public facing view. This is in line with the Information Commissioner's advice that such officials would not reasonably expect their work details to be made known and that they do not normally carry individual public accountability for their official activities. Section 40 exempts personal information from disclosure if its release would contravene one of the Data Protection principles. In this case, disclosure of the information would contravene the first Data Protection principle which states that personal information must be processed fairly and lawfully.