



HM TREASURY

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Paul Perrin

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Our refs: IRU/9/21
Email/15287/2009

5th February 2009

Dear Mr. Perrin,

Thank you for your enquiry dated 9th January 2009 asking for information under the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act 2000.

You asked for:

... all government/treasury documents containing predictions as to the duration (and/or end) of the current recession ...

The FoI Act provides a right of access to recorded information not documents. The Government is required, by the 1975 Industry Act, to publish two economic forecasts a year. It does this in the Pre-Budget Report in the autumn and in the Budget in the spring. These forecasts provide the information you request.

The Government last published an economic forecast on 24th November 2008 in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report. Those projections, and an extensive discussion of them, can be found here:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_annexa_339.pdf.

The Treasury will produce and publish updated forecasts for the UK economy in the 2009 Budget, as is normal practice.

The FoI Act establishes a legal process, and so, formally, we have to point out that as this information has already been published it is exempt from re-issue under section 21 of the Act. However, we are happy to provide the web link above for you to locate the relevant information.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us at the email account given in the header to this letter. It would help us, if you could remember to quote the IRU reference number (also in the header) in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit
On behalf of HM Treasury



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write within two months of the date of this letter to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/SW, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ. Email: public.enquiries@hm-treasury.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.