

Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road, London
SW1A 2HQ

Monday 21 October 2024

Dear Rachel,

I am writing on behalf of Full Fact, the UK's independent fact checking organisation, to set out how you and your department can work with us from next week's Budget onwards to urgently rebuild public trust.

At the Labour Party Conference you rightly said that "[trust is hard earned - and is easily squandered](#)", and I'm sure you appreciate how important trust is to economic management. It is concerning, therefore, that in the month of the Budget, a Full Fact / Savanta poll has found that [62% of the public think the Government has not done very much, or nothing at all, to improve trust](#).

We are keen to put this right with you, starting with the Budget. Here's how. We ask that you and your team honour the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#), particularly:

- **Honesty.** If Labour needs to abandon or modify a commitment it has made, for example on tax or spending plans, please say so, be truthful and explain why. Full Fact will monitor key claims made in the Budget and will publish fact checks about them if they're inaccurate or missing important context.
- **Openness.** Information must be provided in an open, transparent way, in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics that governs all [HM Treasury statistics](#). Full Fact is aware of concerns that your department failed to provide details of the [£22 billion "black hole"](#) claim, for example, and we will alert the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) if our monitoring reveals possible breaches of the OSR's code.
- **Accountability.** Please ensure that your department and its ministers are responsive to our requests for relevant information or corrections. Full Fact will intervene - for example by asking you to correct the record - if inaccurate information can be countered. [Full Fact will also be tracking government pledges](#). We have asked the government to set out how it intends to keep its promises, be clear how progress will be measured, and ensure all workings are readily available for public scrutiny.

I hope you will agree to take these fundamental, much needed actions to restore trust.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Morris".

Chris Morris, Chief Executive, Full Fact