

Public Release

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**False and Misleading Narratives -
The King (on application of Gill) v Office for Budget Responsibility**

On 26 September 2025, a principal of The Good State Project, Timandeep Singh Gill, commenced proceedings at the Administrative Court (High Court) with the Office for Budget Responsibility

The case centres on the Office for Budget Responsibility (“OBR”) from 2022 onwards creating upward-spiralling forecasts for certain expenditure with no reasonable basis in logic or reality, and based entirely on narrative manipulation. Evidence submitted to the Court shows the inherent unreasonableness of the approach taken by the OBR, its improperness during a time of intense upheaval (the pandemic) and its lack of investigation into the factual premise for those forecasts. When combined with its repeated and open publications of those same estimates to support proposed government policy reforms in a highly sensitive area of subsistence level support for vulnerable disabled people, this constitutes a serious failure for a body tasked with independent fiscal assessment for the state policies, the Treasury and the UK economy

The Administrative Court is being requested to make the following findings of fact with regards to the OBR:

Illegality

The OBR may have acted beyond its powers by endorsing forecasts without holding the necessary supporting information or making reasonable and due inquiry into highly sensitive narratives that are damaging to vulnerable people

Irrationality, Bias and Failure in Standards

It is unreasonable for the OBR to rely on a metric without possessing the underlying data

By not having the supporting information, the OBR has no context in which to judge how the metric may change or evolve over time

To apply this metric indiscriminately and directly to derive estimates for the growing expenditure on disability benefits represents unfounded and heavily biased ‘wild’ forecasting that is much more malleable to political narratives than factual reality

Procedural Impropriety

The OBR's failure to maintain transparency and accountability in its forecasting process. Its own Nov-22 press release acknowledges that it had been coming under pressure from media and the public for not providing reasoning or supporting evidence : what it presented in this Nov-22 update is the flawed methodology that is the subject of these case papers

The specific grounds include :

- 1. a discussion of the Tameside duty-of-inquiry**
- 2. breaches of Public Sector Equality Duty, s.149 of the Equality Act 2010**
- 3. section 14 of the Human Rights Act 1998 in conjunction with A1P1**
- 4. a potential discussion regarding Wednesbury unreasonableness**
- 5. a violation of the Charter for Budget Responsibility**
 - The OBR is required to have full control and discretion over what it produces, as provided by the Charter**
 - Yet it disclaims holding or reviewing the most basic inputs—such as caseload assumptions or disabled population estimates—that underpin its forecasts in a highly sensitive, high-impact policy area**
 - This raises serious concerns about its adherence to its own statutory obligations**

Speaking about the case at the Administrative Court, founder of The Good State Project, Timandeep Singh Gill made the following statement :

“.... This case reveals what happens when an independent oversight body drops the ball on its responsibility to do its own homework, and instead begins to rely on politicised narratives to pass off basic number manipulation as robust professional rigour

Not only is this a serious breach of trust in anything the state publishes - ie. both narratives and numbers may be devoid of any real meaning, it raises a concerning basic question : how are we supposed to believe anything (including purporting to be rigorous scientific method from our dedicated independent fiscal oversight body) the state provides us with directly, through the media or in public consultations. This represents a profound breakdown in the trust between the state, its independent institutions, and the public : The Good State Project is seeking the intervention of the highest courts to bring focus, rigour and properness back to where it is needed

The Good State Project
www.thegoodstateproject.org

This also not a partisan political case in any way - the behaviour of the OBR and the related state department spans successive Conservative and Labour governments....”

Further public releases on this case will be made in due course
