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Bank of England launches Contingent Term Repo Facility

Bank of England/Central Bank of the United Kingdom

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Contingent Term Repo Facility

In response to financial market conditions the Bank of England is today activating the Contingent Term Repo Facility (CTRF) – a temporary enhancement to its sterling liquidity insurance facilities.

News release

This step is designed to help alleviate frictions observed in money markets in recent weeks, both globally and domestically, as a result of the economic shock caused by the outbreak of Covid-19.

The CTRF is a flexible liquidity insurance tool that allows participants to borrow central bank reserves (cash) in exchange for other, less liquid assets (collateral). The Bank’s liquidity insurance facilities support financial stability by reducing the cost of disruption to critical financial services.

5. Participants in the Sterling Monetary Framework are eligible to participate in the Bank of England’s liquidity insurance facilities. More detail on the eligibility criteria is set out on the Bank’s Market Operations Guide.

7. As described in the Bank’s Market Operations Guide.

Notes to editors

1. The Bank can activate the CTRF in response to any actual or prospective market-wide event, allowing the Bank to respond to a market stress in a flexible way. Prevailing market conditions are taken into account when setting the terms of the CTRF. As such, market participants will be able to borrow central bank reserves for a term of three months.

2. The CTRF was established in 2014, when it replaced the Extended Collateral Term Repo (ECTR) facility. This change was a part of a broader set of changes to the Bank’s liquidity insurance facilities. More detail is available on the Indexed Long-Term Repo operations and Contingent Term Repo Facility Notice.

3. The ILTR is the Bank’s standing, regular market-wide sterling operation and forms part of the Bank’s liquidity insurance facilities. The CTRF will run alongside the Bank’s regular sterling market operations - the Indexed Long-Term Repo (ILTR) and Discount Window Facility (DWF). The Bank is also able to lend in all major currencies through its participation in the central bank swapline network.

4. The Bank will only accept collateral of sufficient quality and quantity to protect itself fully from counterparty credit risk.

6. This step is designed to help alleviate frictions observed in money markets in recent weeks, both globally and domestically, as a result of the economic shock caused by the outbreak of Covid-19.

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