



BANK OF ENGLAND

# News release

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## **Bank of England maintains Bank Rate at 0.5% and the size of the Asset Purchase Programme at £375 billion**

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee today voted to maintain Bank Rate at 0.5%. The Committee also voted to maintain the stock of purchased assets financed by the issuance of central bank reserves at £375 billion.

The Committee reached its decisions in the context of the monetary policy guidance announced alongside the publication of the August 2013 *Inflation Report*.

Also in the context of that guidance, the Committee agreed to reinvest the £8.1 billion of cash flows associated with the redemption of the March 2014 gilt held in the Asset Purchase Facility.

The minutes of the meeting will be published at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday 19 March.

ENDS

### **Notes to editors**

The previous change in Bank Rate was a reduction of 0.5 percentage points to 0.5% on 5 March 2009. A programme of asset purchases financed by the issuance of central bank reserves was initiated on 5 March 2009. The previous change in the size of that programme was an increase of £50 billion to a total of £375 billion on 5 July 2012.

Information on the Committee's forward guidance strategy can be found on the Bank of England website at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetarypolicy/Pages/forwardguidance.aspx>.

Information on the Asset Purchase Facility can be found on the Bank of England website at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetarypolicy/Pages/qe/default.aspx>.

A market notice describing the reinvestment of the cash flows associated with the redemption of the March 2014 gilt held in the Asset Purchase Facility can be found at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/Documents/marketnotice140306.pdf>.

The Bank will continue to offer to purchase high-quality private sector assets on behalf of the Treasury, financed by the issue of Treasury bills, in line with the arrangements announced on 29 January 2009 and 29 November 2011.