

# **Survey Compliance Costs**

## **Department for Transport**

### **Statistical Surveys undertaken by DfT**

Information from statistical surveys is vital for Government, businesses and the wider community. Relevant and timely information is essential to assess the country's economic and social condition, to formulate, monitor and evaluate policy, to measure performance or to facilitate decisions. However, the collection of data places a burden on providers and it is therefore important that these are kept to a minimum.

The Prime Minister's Instructions on the Control of Statistical Surveys set out how government departments, under the guidance of the Office for National Statistics, should promote necessary surveys of the highest quality, prevent poorly designed or unnecessary surveys and ensure that burdens on data providers, particularly businesses and Local Authorities, are kept to a minimum.

The control of statistical surveys is also important in the context of the work currently being undertaken by the Better Regulation Executive (BRE) in the Cabinet Office. BRE are working with Government departments and regulators to measure the administrative burdens regulation imposes on the private, public and voluntary sector with a view to minimising these burdens through a process of deregulation and simplification.

This report provides summary information about statistical surveys to businesses and local authorities carried out by or on behalf of the Department for Transport (DfT) and its Agencies. In particular it gives estimates of the costs for businesses and local authorities (including police forces) to comply with the Department's requests for data (compliance costs) during the last three years and anticipated future compliance costs.

### **Compliance Costs: 2006/07 to 2008/09**

Table 1 below gives the number of surveys conducted in each of the years and Table 2 gives associated compliance costs.

Information is presented separately for regular statistical surveys, which provide the core data needs for the Department or meet statutory obligations to the European Union, and 'ad hoc' surveys, which are designed to meet a particular policy need. The majority of the Department's compliance costs are associated with regular surveys.

In 2008/09, compliance costs to businesses and local authorities from DfT surveys amounted to £5.9 million, a reduction relative to the previous two years (Table 2).

The reduction in costs is partly due to a reduction in the number of surveys undertaken by the Department.

Surveys of local authorities account for the majority of compliance costs. Of these the largest single component is the Reported Road Accident Statistics collection, involving local police authorities. Compliance costs for reported road accident statistics are derived from the number of accidents recorded by the police. Changes in the number of road accidents can have a marked impact on the overall compliance costs.

**Table 1: Number of Surveys to businesses and local authorities**

	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Regular Surveys</b>			
Business	15	18	16
Local Authority	4	4	5
Total	19	22	21
<b>Ad Hoc Surveys</b>			
Business	1	2	0
Local Authority	0	2	0
Total	1	4	0
<b>Total Surveys</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>

**Table 2: Compliance Costs for businesses and local authorities (£ millions)**

	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Regular Surveys</b>			
Business	1.004	1.115	1.105
Local authority	5.254	4.914	4.796
<i>Total</i>	6.258	6.029	5.901
<b>Ad Hoc Surveys</b>			
Business	0.001	0.018	0
Local authority	0.000	0.010	0
Total	0.001	0.028	0
<b>Total Surveys</b>	<b>6.259</b>	<b>6.056</b>	<b>5.901</b>

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