



HM TREASURY

Open Data Strategy

2012 – 2015

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Introduction

HM Treasury's Open Data Strategy sets out how the Treasury is meeting all aspects of the Government's Transparency agenda, in particular, continuing to work to embed best practice and to encourage a more open culture. The Strategy provides an insight into the type of transparency datasets which fall under the following categories,

Big Data – routinely collected and held by the department as part of its everyday activities or through initiatives.

My Data – data about individuals held by the department that is released for access by the individual (under the subject access terms of the data Protection Act).

Satisfaction and Experience Data – data that provides customer insight about levels of satisfaction of public service users.

To achieve its core objectives, the Treasury depends highly on accurate and timely fiscal and economic data; and it publishes a wide range throughout the year. In addition to information published directly by the department, information on the UK economy is also released by other organisations including the Office for National Statistics, the Bank of England and the Office for Budget Responsibility. This is consistent with the Treasury's open data strategy, which is based on the first six of the information principles developed for the UK Public Sector, these are:

Principle 1 – Information is a Valued Asset

Principle 2 – Information is Managed

Principle 3 – Information is Fit for Purpose

Principle 4 – Information is Standardised and Linkable

Principle 5 – Information is Re-used

Principle 6 – Public Information is Published

These principles also extend across the arms length bodies, UK Debt Management Office (DMO), Asset Protection Agency (APA), Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) and Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) for which Treasury is directly responsible. Publication of the data allows the success of the Treasury's policies to be evaluated, provides confidence that the state of the economy and public finances are understood, and puts individuals, businesses and other organisations in a position to make decisions based upon the best analysis of public finances and the economy. The Government's default position is that the public has a right to information and therefore the Treasury will continue to publish data where possible in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. This builds on the Treasury's high performance in fulfilling its Freedom of Information obligations to date (www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm). Over the term of the Parliament, the Treasury is focusing on providing greater transparency around its structural priorities. The department is also using transparency to improve efficiency and effectiveness; this includes participation in Government-wide initiatives on benchmarking and the release of spending data. Where public monies are spent, transparency encourages value for money and accountability. The department recognises there is scope to go further and has agreed to publish (as far as possible) the data asked for in requests to the data unlocking service run by the National Archives.

Big Data

Nearly all data that the Treasury produces or collates falls under this category. On a routine basis the Treasury will continue to publish the following types of data on both its external website (<http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk>) and the Government's transparency website (<http://www.data.gov.uk>).

NEW Datasets to be published

Online System for Central Accounting and Reporting - OSCAR

Project OSCAR, the Online System for Central Accounting and Reporting (and the replacement to Combined On-line Information System (COINS)), will improve transparency of public sector financial information by providing greater granularity of data and the ability to analyse better and model information at the centre of government. A concurrent Data and Process Improvement project will improve the quality of reporting through a root and branch review of the definitions, governance, organisation, processes and control of data. OSCAR will be launched in June 2012 with the first release of data to take place towards the end of the year.

Consolidated statement on the use of EU funds in the UK

The Treasury has produced a series of annual publications which bring together into one document details of UK receipts from the EU Budget, and expenditure of those funds. The first report covered the financial year 2006-07. The Statement is prepared on an accruals basis and includes an expenditure statement, a balance sheet and a cash flow statement, intended to give a true and fair view of expenditure on EU supported programmes by UK central government sector entities and the related funding due from the EU. This is laid before Parliament, and is published online in Adobe Acrobat Format.

Since the last Statement, issued in 2011, a review into producing a new form of report has been underway – with a view to improving its accuracy and transparency. The new format will be ready for release for the financial year 2013-14 onwards, together with an accompanying dataset to be published on the data.gov.uk website. To maintain transparency during this period, the Treasury will produce interim reports, as part of its Annual Statement on EU Finances, drawing on data from the Whole of Government Accounts (which publishes high-level information on UK income and expenditure relating to the EU) and departmental accounts.

Consolidated list of financial sanctions targets

These are a consolidated list of asset freeze targets (both individuals and companies) designated by the United Nations, European Union and United Kingdom under legislation relating to current financial sanctions regimes. The data was already published on the HM Treasury website but it will also be shown on the data.gov.uk website in May 2012.

Weekly economic indicators (The Pocket Databank)

The Pocket databank is a weekly HM Treasury statistical publication, containing major economic indicators and series for both the domestic and international economies. The focus of the Pocket databank is to be a quick and concise reference source for monthly and annual historical data. The data was already published on the HM Treasury website but it will also be shown on the data.gov.uk website in May 2012.

Datasets already published

- **Workforce Management (monthly)**

Monthly management information on staff numbers and paybill costs in HM Treasury and its agencies. It provides a breakdown of the staff (by grade) on a month by month basis to show staff levels throughout the year.

- **Government Procurement Card spend over £500 (monthly)**
Data for the HM Treasury Group setting out all the transactions by date, supplier, amount and payment type to show the pattern of spend throughout the year. The Office of Budget Responsibility will publish their data individually every 6 months.
- **Business Plan Quarterly Data Summary – QDS (quarterly)**
These are designed to provide a quarterly snapshot on how each department is spending its budget, the results it has achieved and how it is deploying its workforce. With each department producing this form of data, researchers will be able to collate the data for comparison purposes.
- **Publication of spend over £25,000 (monthly)**
Presents month by month expenditure by date, supplier and amount to show the levels of spend over this threshold. Includes details of exceptions to cross-Government moratoria on spending.
- **Special advisers, senior official salaries, bonuses and expenses (six monthly).**
Pay information is shown as a 'salary range' for each senior official with their associated bonuses and expenses. It also includes information on special advisers.
- **Procurement contracts and tenders**
The department publishes all its contracts and tenders onto the 'Contracts Finder' database.

As well as regularly publishing these datasets the Treasury will also publish the following as part of the key steps the Department is taking in support of its structural reform priorities:

Reduce the Structural Deficit in a Fair and Responsible Way

- **Combined Online Information System – COINS (updated quarterly)**
The publication of historical financial data from the Treasury's Combined Online Information System (COINS) database. This is the most detailed UK public expenditure data ever released, comprising planned departmental spend, outturn and forecast outturn. The historic data currently published is raw and work is underway to make COINS data more accessible to the public, manageable and comprehensible to the wider public. The public will be able to see patterns in spend by organisations reporting data on COINS. At the same time users will be able to drill down behind previously released high level aggregates.
- **Whole of Government Accounts – WGA (Updated annually)**
The Treasury published Whole of Government Accounts - full accruals based accounts covering the whole public sector and audited by the National Audit Office. WGA is a consolidation of the accounts of about 1500 bodies from central government, devolved administrations, the health service, local government and public corporations.

- **Economic and Fiscal Forecasts**

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) was established to produce the official economic and fiscal forecasts that underpin the Budget. For the first time, forecast judgements were made independent of ministers and the OBR published unprecedented detail on the economic and fiscal forecasts. A full Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) forecast was published to the end of the forecast period (2015-16). Details of the labour market (wages and salaries, earnings, employment, public sector employment) and quarterly GDP forecasts were also published for the first time.

- **Clear Line of Sight reforms**

The Treasury completed full implementation of the Clear Line of Sight reforms last year. These reforms made Government's financial reporting simpler and more transparent by better aligning budgets, estimates and resource accounts, also, rationalising the government spending documents presented to Parliament. For the first time, an annex containing analysis and data intended to help interested parties understand the impact on households of tax and welfare proposals. Building on this, for the Spending Review, an indicative distributional analysis of public services spend (Resource Department Expenditure Limits (RDEL)), was undertaken and published alongside tax and welfare analysis. For future fiscal events the Government will consider how best to present the impact of changes on households consistent with these aims of transparency.

- **Public Finance Initiative Data (updated annually)**

The Treasury collects summary data on UK Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects once a year in the spring. The information is provided by the Departments and Devolved Administrations that procured or sponsored the projects, and is not audited by HM Treasury. In addition, during the year, the Treasury periodically collects updates on projects which have entered procurement or reached financial close. The information currently published is based on the data provided by Departments and the Devolved Administrations in response to the last data collection exercise, and then updated for those projects that have entered procurement or reached financial close between 16 March and 30 November.

Reform the financial sector to avoid future financial crises

- **Annual Reports and Accounts**

The Treasury has taken on substantial assets, liabilities and contingencies in response to the financial services crisis. The department discloses these fully in its Annual Report and Accounts, and where appropriate updates this information through Treasury Minutes and the Estimates process.

My Data

The Treasury is a policy department interfacing with other government departments, and the financial and commercial sectors. The department holds a small amount of personal data about members of the public. The majority of the personal information processed is obtained via correspondence received from the public. The Treasury also holds some

personal data on a small number of individuals in line with our responsibility for the implementation and administration of international financial sanctions. All personal data is processed in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. In view of the small quantity of data, the Treasury will have no datasets to produce for this area.

Satisfaction and Experience Data

Unlike other 'front line' Government departments, the Treasury does not capture satisfaction and experience data from members of the public or organizations to improve the way it delivers its service. However, it does capture staff survey data, on an annual basis, which is analysed and published internally. However, the Treasury does welcome feedback and comments on various policies it produces through consultations. A detailed list of consultations can be found on the Treasury's website at:

<http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/Search.aspx?terms=consultations>

These consultations relate to mostly relate to policy matters and very little to do with public services.

Continuously improving the quality of the data

The Treasury will conduct an annual review to identify new information assets or transparency datasets. To share best practice, the Treasury will work closely with its arm length bodies and other departments, this will also ensure datasets are published promptly and accurately. All Treasury datasets will be made available both on the external website and on the data.gov.uk site. Finally, the Treasury will work with other Government departments to look at innovative ways to provide data in simple form.

Information Principles

The following sets out how the information principles described under the introduction applies to the Treasury Group Open Data Strategy.

IP1 - Information is a Valued Asset

The Treasury has always taken the importance of information, particularly in terms of security and knowledge sharing, as a key priority. From the time a new Treasury official enters the Department, they learn the steps to protecting and sharing Treasury information which is presented at their 'super induction' events. They are also presented with an on line booklet 'Protecting our information' designed for the Treasury Group on how to classify and handle information. As a further development, all Treasury staff has to complete the Level One 'Protecting our Information' course. Since the implementation of the Data Handling Review in 2009, then superseded by the Security Policy Framework, the Treasury Group has followed the mandatory requirement by identifying a series of information assets and assigning responsibility of these information assets to individual owners within the department. These assets are reviewed on an annual basis together with an information asset register and all these are made available to the business with training material for the information asset owners via a dedicated intranet site. On IT, the Department is planning to modernise its electronic document and records management system with a view to implementing a new system during the current financial year.

IP2 - Information is managed

The department has a clear framework for managing information. The Treasury has policies and guidance for how information is classified, handled, stored and used. The department has a team of knowledge and record management professionals who are responsible for; managing the department's electronic document and records management system; maintaining archives; promoting knowledge management standards across the department; managing external information and research resources. The knowledge managers are supported by a network of knowledge champions and folder controllers throughout the department. The department is developing new ways of sharing info and promoting collaboration using its IT platform.

IP3 - Information is Fit for Purpose

The department conducts an annual knowledge benchmarking survey to check on the effectiveness of Treasury practices. The Treasury branches changed its performance and risk management reporting to improve the way management information is used for managing the department.

IP4 - Information is Standardised and Linkable

The Treasury uses standard templates, in particular Word and Powerpoint to enforce consistency. There are project toolkits and stakeholder toolkits available to support peoples' jobs. Our internal intranet site (Red Box) has a set format for pages, standards and a review process. Also, it links to documents where necessary and the Treasury uses team site templates in SharePoint to ensure consistency of use.

IP5 - Information is Re-used

When undertaking new projects, the Treasury adopts a 'lessons learned' approach, for example, this occurs each time the annual Budgeting round begins, that is, where the previous cycle is reviewed and changes made to the next cycle.

IP6 - Public Information is Published

The Treasury is a policy department and does not deal with volumes of public data. The only personal data which is published relates to financial sanctions against individuals or organisations.

ANNEX A - List of data to be released

Dataset Name	Description of data	First published	Frequency of Update	Open Government Licence
Workforce Management	Management information on staff numbers and paybill costs.	Next release May 2012	Monthly	Yes
Quarterly Data Summary	Business Plan Quarterly Data Summary.	Next release July 2012	Quarterly	Yes

Government Procurement Card	Government Procurement Card Expenditure above £500.	Next release May 2012	Monthly	Yes
Procurement Spend	Spend above £25k, also, includes details of exceptions to cross-Government moratoria on spending.	Next release May 2012	Monthly	Yes
Organogram and staff pay data	Senior Civil Services posts in HM Treasury.	Next release June 2012	Six Monthly	Yes
Special advisers, senior official salaries, bonuses and expenses	Pay information is shown as a 'salary range' for each senior official with their associated bonuses and expenses. Also information on special advisers.	Next release September 2012	Six Monthly	Yes
Procurement contracts and tenders	Details of all contracts and tenders awarded by the department.	Next release June 2012	Monthly	Yes
COINS in year data	User-friendly COINS release, containing details of in year spending from the COINS database.	Next release June 2012	Quarterly	Yes
OSCAR	Replacement to COINS data	Release date June 2012	Quarterly	Yes
COINS raw data	Full contents of the coins database.	Next release September 2012	Annual	Yes
Non Consolidated Performance Related Payments	Non-consolidated performance related pay	Next release November 2012	Annual	Yes
Public Finance Initiative Data	Public Finance Initiative Data	Next release November 2012	Annual	Yes
Financial Sanctions	Consolidated list of financial sanctions targets	Release date May 2012	Monthly	Yes
Pocket Databank	The Pocket databank is a weekly HM Treasury statistical publication, containing major economic indicators and series for both the domestic and international economies.	Release date May 2012	Weekly	Yes
EU Funding	Consolidated Statement on the United Kingdom's (UK) use of funds from the Budget of the European Union (EU Budget)	Release date December 2014	Annual	Yes