

Open Budget Survey 2019

Questionnaire

Norway

April 2020

Country Questionnaire: Norway

PBS-1. What is the fiscal year of the PBS evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/>

Comment:

As for previous years the White Paper includes Perspectives on the National economy is considered the Pre-Budget Statement in the Norwegian context.

There are administrative discussions within the Executive as part of the budget preparation process. These contain all elements that are meant to be included in a Pre-budget Statement but are only used for internal purposes and not published. The White paper however is discussed in parliament and publicly available to the general public.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Storting (the Parliament) discusses the government's budget proposal in two steps, of which the first face may cover important elements of a PBS. The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs discusses and presents, by 20 November, a recommendation on the National and Fiscal Budgets, with a proposed resolution on budget ceilings for appropriations in the expenditure areas. The committee submits at the same time a recommendation concerning taxes and duties, revenue items and block grants to municipalities and counties. The Storting must deal with these recommendations within one week, followed by the annual budget debate. The Storting's resolution on budget ceilings is binding for the subsequent consideration of the budget by the other Standing Committees on all expenditure areas. Reference link: <https://stortinget.no/en/In-English/About-the-Storting/Budget/>

PBS-2. When is the PBS made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for a PBS to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration. If the PBS is not released to the public at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the PBS.

Answer:

d. The PBS is not released to the public, or is released less than one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced to the legislature

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/>

Comment:

The PBS is released at the same time as the Executives Budget Proposal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-3a. If the PBS is published, what is the date of publication of the PBS?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
8/10/2018

Source:
<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2018/Artikler/Viktige-datoer-i-2018/>

Comment:
The PBS 2019 was published at this site on the same date as the EBP 2019.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the PBS.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
The published budget calendar and the press releases.

Source:
<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2018/Artikler/Viktige-datoer-i-2018/>
and the "fiscal policy speech" of the Finance Minister to the Parliament:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/finanstalen.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-4. If the PBS is published, what is the URL or weblink of the PBS?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/stm.pdf

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/stm.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-5. If the PBS is published, are the numerical data contained in the PBS available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the PBS is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjett-2018/Dokumenter/>

The data are available in separate excel sheets for each chapter in the White paper.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-6a. If the PBS is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the PBS is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question PBS-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question PBS-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or

"d" applies.

Answer:

a. Produced but made available online to the public too late (published after the acceptable time frame)

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/stm.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Ref. that the reviewer define the PBS (the national economic analysis presented as justification for the budget submission which is submitted to Parliament together with the Annual State Budget.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question PBS-6a, please specify how you determined whether the PBS was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a","b," or "e" was selected in question PBS-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-7. If the PBS is produced, please write the full title of the PBS.

For example, a title for the Pre-Budget Statement could be "Proposed 2019 State Budget" or "Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Plan and Budget for 2018/19."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Meld. St. 1 (2018 – 2019) Melding til Stortinget Nasjonalbudsjettet 2019

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/stm.pdf

Comment:

Guidelines for the preparation of the budget are produced and distributed internally and contains only a limited amount of the data provided in the White paper, interpreted here as the PBS.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the PBS?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter

Comment:

There are citizen versions of the budget that contains some of the information from the PBS.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: There are several presentations of the budget intended to simplify the understanding for the general public, media and others. The website with the budget documents contain several short versions of key elements of the budget ref.

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/>. A simple and short summary version is also presented ref.

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The citizen version of the budget/PBS was not printed for the 2019 budget but exists (pdf) for previous years. Reference 2018:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Upload/Statsbudsjett_2018/dokumenter/pdf/budsjett_2018.pdf For the 2019 budget you may refer to the on-line version: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Researcher Response

The reviewers refer to the citizen version for the EBP and not the citizen version of the PBS. There is no citizen version of the PBS.

EBP-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EBP evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

In addition to the main document all the Line ministries present a more detailed budget proposal with more disaggregated information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Reference: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/>

EBP-1b. When is the EBP submitted to the legislature for consideration?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
8/10/2018

Source:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/finanstalen.pdf

Comment:
The budget calendar and the fiscal policy speech by the Minister of Finance that opens the budget debate in Parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-2. When is the EBP made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EBP to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public while the legislature is still considering it and before the legislature approves (enacts) it. If the EBP is not released to the public before the legislature approves it, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EBP.

The OBS definition of an Executive's Budget Proposal is a document(s) that (i) the executive submits to the legislature as a formal part of the budget approval process and (ii) the legislature either approves or on which it approves proposed amendments.

The OBS will treat the Executive's Budget Proposal as "Not Produced," in the following cases:

- *The executive does not submit the draft budget to the legislature; or*
- *The legislature receives the draft budget but does not approve it or does not approve recommendations on the draft budget;*
- *The legislature rejects the draft budget submitted by the executive, but the executive implements it without legislative approval; or*
- *There is no legislature, or the legislature has been dissolved.*

Answer:

b. At least two months, but less than three months, in advance of the budget year, and in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature

Source:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/finanstalen.pdf

Comment:
The budget calendar and the fiscal policy speech establish and confirm the date. The fiscal year runs from January through to December and coincides with the calendar year.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-3a. If the EBP is published, what is the date of publication of the EBP?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their date of publication.

Answer:
8/10/2018

Source:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/finanstalen.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EBP.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
I looked at the budget calendar announced and verified the date based on the fiscal policy speech, the press release and the media coverage of the content of the budget documents including the publication dates available on the documents.

Source:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/finanstalen.pdf

EBP-4. If the EBP is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EBP?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their URL or weblink.

Answer:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/> gives access to all documents presented

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-5. If the EBP is published, are the numerical data contained in the EBP or its supporting documents available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the EBP is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Utlisting-av-tabeller-i-dokumentene/>

Comment:

The data from the press releases and the budget documents are available in machine readable format in csv.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-6a. If the EBP is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EBP is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EBP-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EBP-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019>

Comment:

The EBP is publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EBP-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EBP was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a", "b", or "e" was selected in question EBP-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-7. If the EBP is produced, please write the full title of the EBP.

For example, a title for the Executive's Budget Proposal could be "Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for BY 2018-19, produced by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development."

If there are any supporting documents to the EBP, please enter their full titles in the comment box below.

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

FINANSDEPARTEMENTET (FIN) Prop. 1 S Gul bok (2018 – 2019) Statsbudsjettet 2019

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The printed version title: Prop. 1 S (2018 – 2019) Proposisjon til Stortinget (forslag til stortingsvedtak) FOR BUDSJETTÅRET 2019

Statsbudsjettet Reference: https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

EBP-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EBP?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Statsbudsjettet-fra-A-til-A/>

Comment:

The pocket versions include a short synopsis: The budget in 1-2-3 and a searchable budget with query functions called. The budget from A to Z.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same as for what the reviewer defined as PBS

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2018

Source:

BY 2018: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf>

BY 2019 (published after the OBS cutoff date): <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2019/>

Comment:

The enacted budget is called the Blue book and was enacted December 19th 2018. However, it was published very shortly after the OBS cutoff date (at the very beginning of January, see: <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2019/01/flash-alert-2019-001.html>).

For this reason we are using the 2018 Enacted Budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Not sure why the budget 2018 was used for review as the EB was published in time for the review. However, there are now major changes to the procedures from 2018 to 2019 fiscal year.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-1b. When was the EB approved (enacted) by the legislature?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

04/12/2017

Source:

2018 EB info

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Vedtak/Vedtak/?pid=2017-2018&m=all&dtid=BUDSJETT#primaryfilter>

For reference, 2019 enacted budget info: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2019/>

Comment:

Please note that the 2019 Budget was enacted on December 19, 2018, but was not published before the OBS cutoff date, which was December 31, 2018. Hence, we are using the 2018 Enacted Budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: 2019 Budget was enacted on December 19, 2018

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Storting approved the total expenditure and revenue as well as expenditure frames for each expenditure area on 4 December 2017 and approved the detailed budget on expenditure areas subsequently up to 20 December 2017.

EB-2. When is the EB made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EB to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public three months after the budget is approved by the legislature. If the EB is not released to the public at least three months after the budget is approved by the legislature, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EB.

Answer:

c. More than six weeks, but less than three months, after the budget has been enacted

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2019/arbeidsplan/>

Comment:

The EB is made public in a preliminary version on the date of the enactment in Parliament, in this case on December 19th 2018. All information is published in a final version within two weeks, but no explicit publication date is available online.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Between two weeks and six weeks after the budget has been enacted

Comments: The document was available in PDF format on the website 25 January 2019 i.e. more than 2 weeks and less than 6 weeks of its enactment ref. date of document <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf> The link to the 2018 workplan is: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2018/arbeidsplan/> The response has been updated to reflect this document; as the 2018 EB was enacted on 4 December 2017 and published on 29 January 2018, the response has been changed from "a" to "c."

EB-3a. If the EB is published, what is the date of publication of the EB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

29/01/2018

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

Online publication of the information and imprint of the Blue Book in hardcopy in January, also available online.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The date prepared and uploaded as PDF was 25 January 2019

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf> The response has been updated to reflect this document.

EB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Determined by observing the last modified date of the page hosting the 2018 Statsbudsjettet file:
<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf>

Source:
<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Determined by looking at the Document Property of <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettetsiden/blabok2018.pdf> The response has been updated to reflect this document.

EB-4. If the EB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:
<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettetsiden/blabok2018.pdf>

Source:
See also the 2019 Enacted Budget, for reference: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-5. If the EB is published, are the numerical data contained in the EB available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the EB is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:
c. No

Source:
<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf>

EB-6a. If the EB is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EB is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EB-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EB-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

The enacted budget is called Blå Bok, in digital format Witten "blaa bok" and literally means the "blue book".

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf>

EB-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EB-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EB-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

EB-7. If the EB is produced, please write the full title of the EB.

For example, a title for the Enacted Budget could be "Appropriation Act n. 10 of 2018."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Statsbudsjettet for 2018: Saldert budsjett for 2018 vedtatt i Stortinget høsten 2017

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

The title for the enacted budget is:

Statsbudsjettet 2019 Saldert budsjett vedtatt i Stortinget høsten 2018. "Blå bok".

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf> The title has also been updated to reflect this change: from "Statsbudsjettet 2019 Saldert budsjett vedtatt i Stortinget høsten 2018" to "Statsbudsjettet for 2018: Saldert budsjett for 2018 vedtatt i Stortinget høsten 2017."

EB-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EB?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

There is only a citizen version of the proposed budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-1. What is the fiscal year of the CB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for each CB please indicate the document the CB simplifies/refers to, and the fiscal year.

Answer:
FY 2019

Source:
<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Statsbudsjettet-fra-A-til-A/>

Comment:
There are two documents that fit into this category:
A stor introduction to the budget called: the budget in 1-2-3 and a query function available in Sami and Norwegian, the budget from A to Z. Both links are provided.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Plus access to short summaries of different topics available at the main website <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/>

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-2a. For the fiscal year indicated in CB-1, what is the public availability status of the CB?

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document (Executive's Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget) you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its public availability status.

Remember that publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology
Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

Answer:
e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:
The citizen budgets are made available for the executives budget proposal and are also available for the mid term review half way into the fiscal year.
No citizen budget is specifically produced to capture the changes from the EBP to the EB.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-2b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question CB-2a, please specify how you determined whether the CB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question CB-2a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

CB-3a. If the CB is published, what is the date of publication of the CB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its dates of publication.

Answer:
8/10/2018

Source:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/finanstalen.pdf

Comment:
The Fiscal policy speech is given and all documents are made available online that same day.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Ref. also main website <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/>

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the CB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/finanstalen.pdf

Source:

All budget documents are available online at the day of the presentation of the budget. The finance minister gives a speech in Parliament and a press release is also sent to all media.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Ref. main website <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-4. If the CB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the CB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its URL or weblink.

Answer:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Statsbudsjettet-fra-A-til-A/>

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Statsbudsjettet-fra-A-til-A/>

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: And also main website <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/> with short summary of all main topics available

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-5. If the CB is produced, please write the full title of the CB.

For example, a title for the Citizens Budget could be "Budget 2018 People's Guide" or "2019 Proposed Budget in Brief: A People's Budget Publication."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for the other CB, indicate the document the CB refers to and, next to it, its full title.

Answer:

Statsbudsjettet 1-2-3

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: And also main website <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/> with short summary of all main topics available

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-6. If the CB is produced, please indicate which budget document it corresponds to.

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and which budget document it simplifies.

Answer:

The Executives budget proposal

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: And also main website <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/> with short summary of all main topics available

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-1. What is the fiscal year of the IYRs evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2018

Source:

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-november-1#Du-finner-alle-tallene-pa-statsregnskapet.no:23247>

Comment:

The Norwegian Agency for Financial Management has a reporting portal with monthly reporting from all government budget entities. Upon reporting the reports are made available and all the transaction data can be downloaded.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: The exact title of the agency is The Norwegian Government Agency for Financial Management www.dfo.no

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Correct link for November 2018: <https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-november> On the website it is possible to download (excel) all raw data on the actual IYR, and a new data set is available every month. In addition all data is publicly available and searchable on the portal <https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no/>.

IBP Comment

The November 2018 link provided by the government reviewer is well-received.

IYRs-2. When are the IYRs made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for IYRs to be considered publicly available, IYRs must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends. If at least seven of the last 12 monthly IYRs, or at least three of the last four quarterly IYRs are not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the IYRs.

Answer:

a. At least every month, and within one month of the period covered

Source:

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-november-1#Du-finner-alle-tallene-pa-statsregnskapet.no:23247>

Comment:

The data are made available with revenue and expenditure data separately according to the structure of the enacted budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Correct link for November 2018: <https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-november> On this website it is possible to download (excel) all raw data on the actual IYR, and a new data set is available every month. In addition all data is publicly available and searchable on the portal <https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no/>.

IYRs-3a. If the IYRs are published, what are the dates of publication of the IYRs?

Specifically: if quarterly In-Year Reports are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least three of the last four IYRs that were publicly available. If monthly IYRs are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least seven of the last 12 IYRs that were publicly available.

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD Month YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05 September 2018. If the document is not published or not produced, please mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

01.11.2018

03.12.2018

Source:

For reports going further back the reports are available but the listing of the publications dates are not. However, except for 1st of a month falling on a weekend, the reports are made available on the 1st or first working day after start of the following month= within one month.

Comment:

Specific dates not available beyond the last 2 of 2018 and more recent.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For 2019 ref: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2019>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Reference: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

IYRs-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2018>

Source:

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2018>

Comment:

Information available a the web site

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2019>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Reference: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

IYRs-4. If the IYRs are published, what is the URL or weblink of the IYRs?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Researchers should provide the weblink to the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the weblinks to older IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Source:

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Comment:

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2018>

Link to the 2018 reports. The reports from August and earlier are available but without the publication dates that only list the last 6 months.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For 2019: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2019>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We have made the Norwegian Government Agency for Financial Management (DFØ) aware of the unexplained broken series of reports for 2018. For 2017 and 2019 all monthly reports are available on the web site. DFØ expresses that they are investigating the reasons for the loss of data and data for the missing months has now been re-posted. The actual figures have always been available in the form of datasets under the portal www.statsregnskapet.no.

IYRs-5. If the IYRs are published, are the numerical data contained in the IYRs available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the IYRs are not published or not produced, therefore their machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2018>

Comment:

Link to 2018 report provided

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2019>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-6a. If the IYRs are not publicly available, are they still produced?

If the IYRs are not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question IYRs-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question IYRs-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2019>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question IYRs-6a, please specify how you determined whether the IYRs were produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question IYRs-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-7. If the IYRs are produced, please write the full title of the IYRs.

For example, a title for the In-Year Report could be "Budget Monitoring Report, Quarter 1" or "Budget Execution Report January-March 2018."

If In-Year Reports are not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Researchers should provide the full title of the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the full titles of older IYRs.

Answer:

Månedlig statsregnskap for Januar

Månedlig statsregnskap for Februar, Mars, April, Mai, Juni, Juli, August, September, Oktober, November, Desember.

Source:

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2019>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the IYRs?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to

expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:
b. No

Source:
<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2019>

Comment:
No citizen version available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: There is no explicit citizen version of the IYR but all data are available and searchable on the portal: <https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no/>

MYR-1. What is the fiscal year of the MYR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2018

Source:
<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2018/>

Comment:
The revised budget 2018.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: For 2019 <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2019/>

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

MYR-2. When is the MYR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an MYR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends (i.e., three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year). If the MYR is not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the MYR.

Answer:

a. Six weeks or less after the midpoint

Source:

May 15th 2018

Verified in the press releases published https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2018/dokumenter/pdf/pressehefte_rnb18.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same for 2019

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-3a. If the MYR is published, what is the date of publication of the MYR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

15/5/2018

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2018/dokumenter/pdf/pressehefte_rnb18.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: for 2019 - 5 June 2019 ref. https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2019/dokumenter/stm2.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the MYR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

I verified through two different sources: the press releases that inform about the proposed revised budget: Mid Year Review and the calendar at the Parliament website with a detailed calendar of the entire process EBP- EB- MYR-Enacted MYR etc.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no>

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/Sak/?p=70984>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Plus the date of the PDF version published ref; https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2019/dokumenter/stm2.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Ref. also: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2018/>

MYR-4. If the MYR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the MYR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-2-20172018/id2601344/>

Source:

the cabinet website
www.regjeringen.no

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For 2019 https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2019/dokumenter/stm2.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-5. If the MYR is published, are the numerical data contained in the MYR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the MYR is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2018/Dokumenter/>

Available in excel at least.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same for 2019

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The numbers behind the figures are available in excel format. The numbers presented in tables are available in html format. Reference: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-2-20172018/id2601344/> (The Revised National Budget)
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-85-s-20172018/id2601312/> (The Revised Budget Appropriations)

MYR-6a. If the MYR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the MYR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question MYR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question MYR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2018/Dokumenter/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

MYR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question MYR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the MYR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question MYR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-7. If the MYR is produced, please write the full title of the MYR.

For example, a title for the Mid-Year Review could be "Semi-annual Budget Performance Report, FY 2017/18" or "Mid-Year Report on the 2018 National Budget."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Tilleggsbevilgninger og omprioriteringer i statsbudsjettet 2018

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2018/Dokumenter/>

Comment:

There are 4 documents:

- the one with the revised appropriations: expenditure and revenue
- a macropolicy document - more like a white paper with a discussion on macroeconomic perspectives and assumptions
- changes to taxes, duties and fees
- changes to the economic framework conditions of the municipalities. These are all listed under the provided link.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same for 2019

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The title of the two most essential parts of the MYR is: 1) The title provided by the researcher: Prop. 85 S (2017–2018)

Tilleggsbevilgninger og omprioriteringer i statsbudsjettet 2018 (<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-85-s-20172018/id2601312/>) 2)

The Revised National Budget: Meld. St. 2 (2017–2018) Revidert nasjonalbudsjett 2018 (<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-2-20172018/id2601344/>)

MYR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the MYR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2018/Artikler/Revidert-budsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Comment:

For every MYR the same procedure as for the EBP are used. This implies that a CB in two formats are produced:

The Revised budget in 1-2-3 and

the Revised budget from A to Z.

The link to the former I provided. The link to the latter: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2018/Statsbudsjettet-fra-A-til-A/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For 2019 <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2019/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-1. What is the fiscal year of the YER evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2017

Source:
<https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For YER 2018 available on the same site

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-2. When is the YER made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an YER to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than one year after the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the YER is not released to the public within one year after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the YER.

Answer:
a. Six months or less after the end of the budget year

Source:
<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet/2017>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Or <https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no/> with the same for FY2018

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The final YER submitted to the Storting by the end of April every year is publicly available at the same time. Source: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-3-20172018/id2599119/>

YER-3a. If the YER is published, what is the date of publication of the YER?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document. Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
27/4/2018

Source:
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-3-20172018/id2599119/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the YER.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
The publication date is presented online with the publication of the document.

Source:
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-3-20172018/id2599119/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-4. If the YER is published, what is the URL or weblink of the YER?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-3-20172018/id2599119/>

Source:
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-3-20172018/id2599119/sec1>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-5. If the YER is published, are the numerical data contained in the YER available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the YER is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

The machine readable data are provided at another web-site:
At the Norwegian Agency for Financial Management, the same site as the IYR.
<https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-6a. If the YER is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the YER is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question YER-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question YER-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question YER-6a, please specify how you determined whether the YER was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a","b," or "e" was selected in question YER-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-7. If the YER is produced, please write the full title of the YER.

For example, a title for the Year-End Report could be "Consolidated Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2018" or "Annual Report 2017 Published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Meld. St. 3 (2017–2018) Statsrekneskapen 2017 Til innholdsliste Finansdepartementet

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-3-20172018/id2599119/sec1>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Meld. St. 3 (2017–2018) Statsrekneskapen 2017

YER-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the YER?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-3-20172018/id2599119/sec1>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: The website presenting the YER is made in a summarized and popularized version ref. <https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: The portal www.statsregnskapet.dfo.no provides searchable and open data on the implementation of the budget and financial reporting from the accounting entities (agencies) throughout the year. This should be seen as a "citizen's version" of the YER. However, the data refer to the last whole year and monthly data for the current year. That means when the YER is finalised and submitted to the Storting, the data for "the last whole year" is switched to the most recent data. At present "the last whole year" in the portal is 2018. Source: <https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no/>

Researcher Response

There is some arbitrariness related to the qualitative assessment of the information provided on the website of the dfo. I can agree to provide an a), but the information is not provided in one document, is online and found in different places. Accessibility could definitely be improved.

IBP Comment

IBP is in agreement with the researcher's "Response to Review"; the response is revised from "b" to "a."

AR-1. What is the fiscal year of the AR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2017

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-201819/?lvl=0>

Comment:

The SAI's audit report is called Dokument nr 1 (Document nr 1)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Correct link: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-2018192/>

AR-2. When is the AR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an AR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the AR is not released to the public at least 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these

instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the AR.

Answer:

b. 12 months or less, but more than six months, after the end of the budget year

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-201819/?lvl=0>

Comment:

The audit is done on the basis of the YER and the audit process only starts in April of the FY+1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Correct link: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-2018192/> Comment: The audit process starts before the YER is published. The agencies (accounting entities) submit yearly financial statement (all accounts) to the subordinate Ministry with a copy to the Auditor General by 15 March according to the annual circular on year end account closing and financial reporting (R-9/2017). The Ministries will send explanations to the accounts to the OAG by February 28. In addition, the individual agency (accounting entity) will have a dialogue with the OAG and give the audit access to accounting statements, etc. before the annual accounts have been formally presented. Source: <https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/fin/vedlegg/okstyring/rundskriv/arlige/2017/r-9-2017.pdf>

AR-3a. If the AR is published, what is the date of publication of the AR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

18/10/2018

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-201819/?lvl=0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Correct link: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-2018192/>

AR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the AR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The date is published.

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-201819/?lvl=0>

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Correct link: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-2018192/>

AR-4. If the AR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the AR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:
<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-201819/?lvl=0>

Source:
Parliament web site.

SAI website: <https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/rapporter-mappe/no-2018-2019/arlig-revisjon-og-kontroll-budsjettet-2017/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

AR-5. If the AR is published, are the numerical data contained in the AR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the AR is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:
c. No

Source:
This is not really a numerical report, but a qualitative audit based on the YER and specific reporting for all budget entities, semi-autonomous institutions, public enterprises etc.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Auditor General of Norway conducts a Financial and Compliance Audit as well as a Performance Audit of selected entities and/or Program Budget Heads

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-6a. If the AR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the AR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question AR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question AR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-201819/?lvl=0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question AR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the AR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question AR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-7. If the AR is produced, please write the full title of the AR.

For example, a title for the Audit Report could be "Annual General Reports of the Controller and Auditor General." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Riksrevisjonens årlige revisjon og kontroll – budsjettåret 2017

Source:

Please see that there is a download document option available at the site:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-201819/?lvl=0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: And <https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/rapporter/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the AR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Dokumentserien/2018-2019/dok1-201819/?lvl=0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Though the AG do publish a summary of findings on its website from which the entire document can be downloaded.

<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/rapporter-mappe/no-2018-2019/arlig-revisjon-og-kontroll-budsjettare-2017/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1a. Are there one or more websites or web portals for disseminating government fiscal information? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

GQ-1a asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where fiscal information can be found. For example, in New Zealand the Treasury website (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/>) hosts important budget-related information, including the Pre-Budget Statement, the Executive's Budget Proposal, the Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, the Mid-Year Review, and the Year-End Report. In addition, New Zealand's Parliamentary Counsel Office (<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>) posts the Enacted Budget while the Controller and Auditor-General website (<http://www.oag.govt.nz/>) publishes the annual Audit Report. The New Zealand researcher would provide the links to each of these sites. Other countries have developed portals that include fiscal information, though not in the "documents" format. For example, these portals have been created by Mexico (<https://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/>) and Brazil (<http://www.portaltransparencia.gov.br/>). Some countries have both a website and a portal.

The Brazilian government, for example, apart from the Transparency Portal, has a dedicated website for the federal budget, where all key documents and other information can be found (www.orcamentofederal.gov.br). Researchers should include details about all of the relevant websites and/or portals that they can be used to access budget information.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

State budget specific site: www.statsbudsjettet.no

Parliament: <https://www.stortinget.no>

Cabinet: www.regjeringen.no

Agency level: www.dfo.no (for all IYR and YER)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In addition to the sources provided by the researcher, the portal www.statsregnskapet.dfo.no provides searchable and open data on the implementation of the budget and financial reporting from the accounting entities (agencies) throughout the year. Source: <https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no/>

GQ-1b. On these websites/portals, can revenue and/or expenditure data for the current fiscal year be downloaded as a consolidated file (or set of files)? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

GQ-1b, GQ-1c, and GQ-1d ask about whether governments publish specific types of content on their websites/portals: (a) consolidated files that contain revenue and/or expenditure information for the current fiscal year; (b) consolidated files that contain revenue and/or expenditure information for multiple years in consistent formats; and (c) infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis. Researchers should provide the links to relevant webpages and some explanations of what they contain.

Answer:

a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Source:

<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1c. On these websites/portals, can consolidated revenue and/or expenditure data be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:

a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

Source:
<https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/månedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

www.statsbudsjettet.no

Comment:
You can also track the decision-making process from the Parliament website. www.stortinget.no

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

GQ-1d. On these websites/portals, are infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:
<https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

GQ-2. Are there laws in place guiding public financial management and/or auditing? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where the law(s) contains specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

GQ-2 asks about the existence of any national laws governing public financial management and auditing. These may include a public finance act, a section of the constitution, or an organic budget law. In some countries, fiscal responsibility legislation may also be relevant. For example, the Kenya researcher may include the link to its Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (<http://www.kenyalaw.org/lex/actview.xhtml?actid=No.%2018%20of%202012>), and the Macedonian researcher may include a link to its State Audit Law (<https://www.finance.gov.mk/files/u11/Audit%20law.pdf>). Researchers should provide links to websites where such laws are published, if possible, or an electronic copy of the law itself. They should also indicate if and where (e.g. which article) these laws include specific provisions for budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:
Public financial management procedures: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/økonomiregelverket>.

Specific provisions for budget transparency: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Stortinget-og-demokratiet/Lover-og-instruksjer/Bevilgningsreglementet/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In addition, the Act on Auditor General: <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2004-05-07-21>

GQ-3. Are there additional laws regulating: (1) access to information; (2) government transparency; or (3) citizens participation? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where these laws contain specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

The third and last question asks researchers to list any additional laws regulating access to information, transparency, or citizens' participation that are relevant for the promotion of budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes. These might include legislation related to access to information, to planning processes, or to public administration more generally. India's Right to Information Act of 2005 (<https://www.ncess.gov.in/facilities/central-public-information-officer/rti-act-details.html>) is an example of this type of law. More information on access to information legislation (constitutional provisions, laws, and regulations), including examples of model laws, can be found here: <http://www.right2info.org/laws/constitutional-provisions-laws-and-regulations#section-1>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

The appropriation regulations include transparency provisions: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Stortinget-og-demokratiet/Lover-og-instrukser/Bevilgningsreglementet/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Not answered? Should be yes. Ref. among others <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2006-05-19-16>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: Freedom of Information Act: <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2006-05-19-16?q=offentleglov> Instructions for Official Studies: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/utredningsinstruksen/om-utredningsinstruksen>

Researcher Response

I am happy to include additional regulation, which in this case is the general legislation not directly addressing fiscal transparency, but the right for citizens to get insights into all decisions made by the Executive in relation to regulatory provisions and decisions by authorities concerning citizens in a specific or in general cases.

IBP Comment

The links suggested by the external reviewers are well-noted.

1. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 1 addresses the presentation of expenditure by administrative unit. This information indicates which government entity (ministry, department, or agency, or MDAs) will be responsible for spending the funds and, ultimately, held accountable for their use.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all administrative units, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the administrative units shown individually, in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation, must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. In other words, the sum of the expenditures assigned to the individual MDAs (education, health, infrastructure, interior, defense, etc.) must account for at least two-thirds of the total expenditure budgeted for that particular year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents administrative units that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by administrative unit.

Answer:

a. Yes, administrative units accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

Starting from page 17 of the document, section 2.4 shows an overview of expenditure for each administrative ministry. From page 83-148, a much more detailed set of expenditures for each ministry is detailed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

2. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by functional classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 2 addresses the presentation of expenditure by functional classification. This classification indicates the programmatic purpose, sector, or objective for which the funds will be used, such as health, education, or defense. Administrative units are not necessarily aligned with functional classifications. For instance, in one country all functions connected with water supply (which fall into the "Housing" function) may be undertaken by a single government agency, while in another country they may be distributed across the Ministries of Environment, Housing, and Industrial Development. In the latter case, three ministries have programs addressing water supply, so three ministries contribute to one function. Similarly, some administrative units may conduct activities that cut across more than one function. For instance, in the example above, some programs of the Ministry of Environment would also be classified in the "environmental protection" function.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by functional classification.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

See table 2.2 on page 15, Tabell 2.2 Statsbudsjettets inntekter og utgifter utenom petroleumsvirksomhet og lånetransaksjoner. This shows a relatively aggregate functional classification of expenditures.

From page 84 onwards, instead, an overview of the structure the 2019 budget shows Administrative classification: Ministry at the first level; and Functional classification at the second level

Please note that the program areas defined in the budget and the appropriation structure based on chapters are defined according to the functional classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree although functional classification not fully in compliance with COFOG

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

3. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by functional classification, is the functional classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 3 asks whether a country's functional classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's functional classification must be aligned with the OECD and the UN's Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), or provide a cross-walk between the national functional presentation and COFOG.

The OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency can be viewed at <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/Best%20Practices%20Budget%20Transparency%20-%20complete%20with%20cover%20page.pdf>

COFOG can be viewed at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_84E.pdf or at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/ch6ann.pdf>.

Answer:

a. Yes, the functional classification is compatible with international standards.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. No, the functional classification is not compatible with international standards, or expenditures are not presented by functional classification.

Comments: Not fully complying with COFOG

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted. To ensure consistency across survey countries, the current response of "a" is maintained.

4. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by economic classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 4 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification. Economic classification provides information on the nature of the expenditure, such as whether funds are being used to pay for wages and salaries, capital projects, or social assistance benefits.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by economic classification.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

See appendix 2, page 196 and following.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Please also refer to chapter 3 in the budget document, page 37 and following.

5. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by economic classification, is the economic classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 5 asks whether a country's economic classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's economic classification must be consistent with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2001 Government Finance Statistics (GFS). The GFS economic classification is presented here: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>. To learn more about Government Finance Statistics also refer to the entire IMF 2001 GFS manual (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf>).

Answer:

a. Yes, the economic classification is compatible with international standards.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

6. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 6 asks whether expenditures are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should treat the term "program" as meaning any level of detail below an administrative unit – that is, any programmatic grouping that is below the ministry, department, or agency level. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Budget decisions for the upcoming year can also affect the parameters of future budgets. It is therefore useful to estimate revenues and expenditures for multi-year periods, understanding that these estimates might be revised as circumstances change. Sometimes referred to as a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), a three-year period – that is, the budget year plus two more years – is generally considered an appropriate horizon for budgeting and planning.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

See section 2.4, and pages 84 and following. Given the working definition of program used in the OBS, the level of expenditure disaggregation presented in the document qualifies for an "a" response. For every ministry all program accounts presented in detail. For even further detail the individual EBP2019 for each Ministry can be assessed.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

7. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 7 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," multi-year expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/5-Budsjettkonsekvenser-20202022/>

Comment:

The EBP presents the multi-year expenditure estimates for 2019 and then 2020-2022 by economic, administrative and functional classifications. See section 5 of the above cited document, "5 Budsjettkonsekvenser 2020-2022"

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

7b. Based on the response to Question 7, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for a multi-year period in the Executive's Budget Proposal?

Answer:

Administrative classification
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/5-Budsjettkonsekvenser-20202022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

8. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by program?

GUIDELINES:

Question 8 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures over the multi-year period. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if multi-year estimates are not presented by program.

Revenues generally are separated into two major categories: "tax" and "non-tax" revenues. Taxes are compulsory transfers that result from government exercising its sovereign power. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes. The category of non-tax revenues is more diverse, ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services. Note that some forms of revenue, such as contributions to social security funds, can be considered either a tax or non-tax revenue depending on the nature of the approach to these contributions. Particularly because different revenues have different characteristics, including who bears the burden of paying the tax and how collections are affected by economic conditions, it is helpful when estimates for revenues are disaggregated and displayed based on their sources.

For more information, please refer to the 2001 GFS manual, in particular Appendix 4 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>).

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/5-Budsjettkonsekvenser-20202022/>

Comment:

In particular, see table 5.3 on page 62.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

9. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 9 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c"

answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for all tax revenue are presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Skatte-avgifts/Prop-1-LS/>

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/3-Budsjettets-inntekter-og-utgifter-etter-art/>

Comment:

There is a budget document (part of the budget package 2019) that presents a narrative and analysis of all tax revenue. The document is titled "Skatter, avgifter og toll 2019."

The second document shows an online presentation of section 3 of the Yellow Book (part of the EBP) which includes estimates for all tax revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

10. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of government-produced goods and services) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 10 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "non-tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The category of non-tax revenues is diverse, and can include revenue ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of non-tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all non-tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of non-tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all non-tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of non-tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of non-tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of non-tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for all non-tax revenue are presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/3-Budsjettets-inntekter-og-utgifter-etter-art/>

Comment:

All estimates on non-tax revenue are also presented. Specifically, see section 3 of the Yellow Book and its related online presentation. Below is a summary of the contents of that section:

3 Budget revenue and expenses

3.1 The total revenue and expenditure of the budget

3.2 Grouping of the revenue of the national budget

3.2.1 Operating revenues (items 1-29)

3.2.2 Income in connection with new buildings, facilities, etc.

3.2.3 Transfers from others

3.2.4 Repayments, etc., other than petroleum activities

3.3 Grouping of budget expenditure

3.3.1 Operating expenses

3.3.2 New buildings, facilities, etc.

3.3.3 Transfers to others

3.3.4 Loans, government debt, etc., excluding petroleum activities

3.4 The revenues and expenses of the petroleum activities, except loan transactions

3.4.1 Overview of petroleum activities revenues and expenses

3.4.2 The Government Pension Fund

3.5 Summary. Charging of the state budget and financing needs

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

11. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 11 evaluates whether revenue estimates are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year) by "category," that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of revenues classified by category for at least two years following the budget year in question.

Answer:

b. No, multi-year estimates of revenue are not presented by category.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/3-Budsjettets-inntekter-og-utgifter-etter-art/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: There are presentation of some revenue forecasts in the texts though not in tables.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Multi-year estimates of revenue are presented more briefly. See table 5.1 (page 60), a note on revenue on page 66 in the Yellow book (the budget proposition) and the first three paragraphs of section 5.4 Room for action in the coming years. Source: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-1-s-gul-bok-20182019/id2613810/sec5>

12. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates for individual sources of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 12 evaluates whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented for a multi-year period.

Answer:

c. Yes, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of revenue are presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/3-Budsjettets-inntekter-og-utgifter-etter-art/>

Comment:

The multiyear estimates in the main budget documents are quite synthetic in presentation. There are however more specific documents, as part of the supplementary documents to the EBP, that include a discussion of the fiscal regime and that include multiyear estimates on tax revenue. For non-tax revenues the discussions will be included in the supplementary documents for each line ministry/sector.
See: https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2018/dokumenter/pdf/skatt.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of revenue are presented.

Comments: Multi-year estimates of revenue are presented more briefly. See table 5.1 (page 60), a note on revenue on page 66 in the Yellow book (the budget proposition) and the first three paragraphs of section 5.4 Room for action in the coming years. Source:
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-1-s-gul-bok-20182019/id2613810/sec5>

IBP Comment

The correct version of the link in the researcher's comment is:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/skatt.pdf.

13. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 13 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt that the budget should include:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies no information on borrowing and debt is presented for the budget year.

Answer:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

In principle all three estimates are included in the budget, but the budget has a surplus. This implies that the net position of interest payment on outstanding debt is not relevant and the net position of assets is presented. See EBP 2018, table 3.17, page 49.

In Section 7 of the document, information on government borrowing is presented, starting from paragraph 7.1 on page 75. As far as interest payments are concerned, please see table 2.2 on page 15, line item "Renter på statsgjeld".

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

As the central government's debt burden in Table 7.1 is presented as of 30 June 2018 but not for the end of budget year 2019, the response is revised from "a" to "b."

13b. Based on the response to Question 13, check the box(es) below to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year
The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

The financing of the budget is presented in Table 3.17, page 50 of the EBP 2019.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Per the IBP comment on Question 13, the response option "The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year" is de-selected.

14. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year?"

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 14 focuses on the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 13, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens, banks, and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of

government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding at the end of the budget year.

Answer:

d. No, information related to composition of total debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

Section 7 of the Yellow Book: https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

In addition, one could refer to: <https://www.ssb.no/offogjeld>

Comment:

In addition to the information provided in the Budget documents (which satisfies the criteria to award an "a" answer), the Central Bureau of Statistics presents regular updates on the state borrowing and lending.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Per the IBP comment on Q13, information on the central government's total debt burden in the 2019 EBP is only provided as of 30 June 2018, rather than for FY 2019. The response is therefore revised from "a" to "d" to ensure consistency across survey countries.

14b. Based on the response to Question 14, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the composition of the total debt outstanding are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

Section 7 of the Yellow Book includes information on the power of attorney to raise state loans, to record short and long-term loans, and on the authorization to raise short-term loans.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The White Paper, the National Budget 2019, section 3.6 Statens gjeldsforvaltning shows the interest rates. Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-1-20182019/id2613334/sec3?q=statsgjeld#kap3-6> The other elements mentioned above are documented in the Executive's Budget Proposal, chapter 7 Statens lånebehov. Source: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-1-s-gul-bok-20182019/id2613810/sec7?q=statslån>

IBP Comment

Per the IBP comment on Q14, the options "Interest rates on the debt," "Maturity profile of the debt," "Whether the debt is domestic or external," and "Information beyond the core elements (please specify)" have been de-selected in favor of "None of the above."

15. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?"

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 15 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the budget's revenue and expenditure estimates, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- nominal GDP level;
- inflation rate;
- real GDP growth; and
- interest rates.

While the core macroeconomic information should be a standard feature of the Executive's Budget Proposal, the importance of some types of macroeconomic assumptions may vary from country to country. For example, the budget estimates of some countries are particularly affected by changes in the price of oil and other commodities.

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short and long-term interest rates; rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Nasjonalbudsjettet-2019/Meld-St-1-/>

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

The national budget and the state budget together include a discussion of the macroeconomic forecast and assumptions whereupon the fiscal policies are based. In the EBP 2019 pages 7-8 and in the national budget 2019 the assumption are presented and discussed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Please see Table 2.1 on page 20 of the "Meld. St. 1" document linked by the researcher.

15b. Based on the response to Question 15, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Nominal GDP level

Inflation rate

Real GDP growth

Interest rates

Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Nasjonalbudsjettet-2019/Meld-St-1-/>

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

16. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget?"

(The core information must include estimates of the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 16 focuses on the issue of whether the Executive's Budget Proposal shows how different macroeconomic assumptions affect the budget estimates (known as a "sensitivity analysis"). It asks whether "core" information related to a sensitivity analysis is presented, estimating the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for:

- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

A sensitivity analysis shows the effect on the budget of possible changes in some macroeconomic assumptions, and is important for understanding the impact of the economy on the budget; for instance, what would happen to revenue collections if GDP growth were slower than what is assumed in the budget proposal? Or what would happen to expenditure if inflation were higher than estimated? Or how will revenue be affected by a decrease in the price of oil?

As noted for Question 15, changes in certain macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil and other commodities, can have a significant impact on the budget estimates. As a result, some sensitivity analyses may also examine the impact on the budget estimates of changes in assumptions such as the price of oil that are beyond the core elements of the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to a "sensitivity analysis" as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to a "sensitivity analysis" is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on "sensitivity analysis" is presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented to show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on the budget.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjett dokumenter/Nasjonalt budsjettet-2019/Meld-St-1-/>

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjett dokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/>

Comment:

Both the national and the state budget include such discussions. There is no explicit sensitivity analysis but discussions of the different assumptions. This is particularly the case for the National budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Please see Section 2 "De økonomiske utsiktene" from pp. 18-42 in the National budget, particularly: -Figure 2.2 on page 21: revised crude oil prices for 2019 - Page 33: impact of new oil price projections on state's net cash flow -Box 2.4 on pg. 39: Forecasts for growth in mainland GDP from 2019-2020 with the associated uncertainty fan -Box 2.5 on pp. 40-41: Different trend calculations for 2019-2021 mainland Norway GDP growth

17. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how all new policy proposals affect expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/5-Budsjettkonsekvenser-20202022/>

In particular, see section 2 of the above-cited document.

Comment:

In the overall budget document the multi-year expenditure consequences of policy discussions are included. In the supplementary documents for each line ministry and all sectors the consequences are discussed and presented in further detail. One can access the individual ministries' documents here: [https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/\(Fagdepartementenes proposisjoner\)](https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/(Fagdepartementenes%20proposisjoner))

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

18. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Prior-year information constitutes an important benchmark for assessing the proposals for the upcoming budget year. Estimates of prior years should be presented in the same formats (in terms of classification) as the budget year to ensure that year-to-year comparisons are meaningful. For example, if the budget proposes shifting responsibility for a particular program from one administrative unit to another – such as shifting responsibility for the training of nurses from the health department to the education department – the prior-year figures must be adjusted before year-to-year comparisons of administrative budgets can be made.

Typically, when the budget proposal is submitted, the year prior to the budget year (BY-1), also known as the current year, has not ended, so the executive will provide estimates of the anticipated outcome for BY-1. The soundness of these estimates is directly related to the degree to which they have been updated to reflect actual expenditures to date, legislative changes that have occurred, and anticipated changes in macroeconomic, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

The first year that can reflect actual outcomes, therefore, is generally two years before the budget year (BY-2). Thus the OECD recommends that data covering at least two years before the budget year (along with two years of projections beyond the budget year) are provided in order to assess fully the trends in the

budget.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how all new policy proposals affect revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/5-Budsjettkonsekvenser-20202022/>

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Skatte--avgifts/Prop-1-LS/>

Comment:

Non-tax revenue consequences of policies would be included in the State budget.

Tax-revenue related policies would be discussed in the particular supplementary document on the tax policy, tax level and structure: Prop 1 LS Skatter, avgifter og toll 2019

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

19. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 19 asks if expenditure estimates for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) are presented by one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-1 by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-1 must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/Vedlegg-og-registre/Vedlegg-2-Statsbudsjettet/>

Comment:

Whereas the administrative and the economic classification is presented in detail in an explicit way. The functional classifications can only be derived by using a combination of the programmatic classification- or the program areas and the economic classification. The functional classification is presented by using a birding table.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

20. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 20 asks if expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-1. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-1. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-1.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/Vedlegg-og-registre/Vedlegg-2-Statsbudsjettet/>

Comment:

In addition detailed information is provided for all programs under line ministries (all sectors) in the supplementary documents. See for example, the Ministry of Education: https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/kd.pdf. [The overall budget package is available here: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/>]

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

21. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 21 asks whether the expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) have been updated from the original enacted levels. Updates can reflect actual experience to date; revised estimates due to shifting of funds by the executive, as permitted under the law; enactment of supplemental budgets; and revised assumptions regarding macroeconomic conditions, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

Answer "a" applies if the estimates have been updated; answer "b" applies if the original estimates are still being used.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/Vedlegg-og-registre/Vedlegg-3-Bevilgningsregnskapet/>

Comment:

All expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year have been updated. See Appendix 3 in the Yellow Book, starting on page 206.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

22. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 22 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any of the three classifications

Answer:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/Vedlegg-og-registre/Vedlegg-2-Statsbudsjettet/>

Comment:

See the various tables on Annex 2, which show expenditures for 2013-2018 by department (ministry) and economic classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

22b. Based on the response to Question 22, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year in the Executive Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Economic classification
Administrative classification

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/Vedlegg-og-registre/Vedlegg-2-Statsbudsjettet/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

23. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for more than one year preceding the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 23 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year before the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-2 and prior years. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-2 and prior years. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Fagdepartementenes-proposisjoner/Landbruks--og-matdepartementet-LMD/Prop-1-S-/Del-2-Budsjettframlegg-/2-Narare-omtale-av-loyvingsforslaga/>

Comment:

The supporting documents that exist for each line ministry and covers all sector contain full information about BY-2 (2018). See for example the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (cited in the Sources above)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

24. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 24 asks for which year the actual outcomes for expenditures are shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated all its expenditure data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

Final outcomes 2017.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

25. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 are presented by category.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

Page 203, Table 2.8 "Samlede inntekter i perioden 2013–2019"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

26. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-1.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

Page 203, Table 2.8 "Samlede inntekter i perioden 2013–2019"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

27. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have the original estimates of revenue for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated to reflect actual revenue collections?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:
Page 203. On table 2.8, there are two columns for BY-1:
Saldert budsjett 2018 (approved budget)
Anslag regnskap 2018 (actual estimates)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Revenues are forecasts - and as such not "enacted"! Expenditures are however "enacted" as they represent expenditure ceilings that cannot be exceeded unless enacted by parliament.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

28. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category.

Source:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:
Page 203. Table 2.8 shows revenue information from 2013 till 2019.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

29. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:
Individual sources of revenue are accounted for. These are accounted for in detail in annex 2 table 2.7 and 2.8 pages 202 and 203.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

30. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

Page 203. Table 2.8 indicates "regnskap" for BY 2013-2017 (i.e., actual figures, not budgeted ones).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

31. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?"

(The core information must include the total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1; the amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1; interest payments on the debt; interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 31 focuses on prior-year debt information, rather than on prior-year expenditures or revenues, asking whether "core" information is provided on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1).

The "core" information includes:

- *total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1;*
- *amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1;*
- *interest payments on the debt;*
- *interest rates on the debt instruments;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether it is domestic or external debt.*

This core information for BY-1 is consistent with the budget year information for borrowing and debt, which is examined in Questions 13 and 14.

In addition, some governments provide information beyond the core elements, such as gross new borrowing required during BY-1; currency of the debt; whether the debt carries a fixed or variable interest rate; whether it is callable; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for BY-1 as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on government borrowing and debt for BY-1.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

In the EBP 2019 and in separate documents presented to Parliament, and in the reports of the Central bank, a full overview of total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1, amount of net borrowing required during BY-1 interest payments on the debt and the interest rates on the debt instruments, maturity profile of the debt and whether it is domestic or external debt.

In section 7 of the EBP 2019 document, pages <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/7-Statens-lanebehov/> some information about the debt is presented.

The Central Bank carried out the operational debt management on behalf of the Ministry of Finance and full reports are provided:

https://static.norges-bank.no/contentassets/49353e1ab9054576aef15ab332835727/statsgjelden_2018_arsrapport.pdf?v=03/22/2019104526&ft=.pdf. Moreover the Central Bureau of Statistics provides full information. However this documentation is not part of what

are considered budget proposal documents. <https://www.ssb.no/offogjeld>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for government debt.

Comments: All the core information is presented in the budget documents

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for government debt.

Comments: The researcher states that the core information is presented by the Central Bank. The Central Bank presents quarterly reports on the debt, including the core information and beyond. This is due to the specific mandate given and division of work between the Bank by the Ministry of Finance. Therefore this information should be assessed as supporting documents. Source: <https://www.norges-bank.no/tema/Statsgjeld/Laneprogram-rapporter/?tab=null&newstype=0&year=0&p=10>

Researcher Response

The Central Bank is independent and their documents have so far not been considered part of the supporting documents of the EBP.

IBP Comment

The comments from the researcher and external reviewers are well-noted. As cited by the researcher, Section 7 ("Statens lånebehov") of the Gulbok contains some information on government borrowing and debt for BY-1 (2018). Net new borrowing, for example, is listed in Table 7.2 on page 76. Outstanding debt, meanwhile, is displayed in Table 7.1 on page 75, but only through 30 June 2018. The response is therefore maintained as "c" to ensure consistency across survey countries.

32. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 32 asks for which year the actual outcome for debt is shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated its debt data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

It is essential that all government activities that may have an impact on the budget – in the current budget year or in future budget years – be fully disclosed to the legislature and the public in budget documents. In some countries, for instance, entities outside central government (such as public corporations) undertake fiscal activities that could affect current and future budgets. Similarly, activities that can have a significant impact on the budget, such as payment arrears and contingent liabilities, sometimes are not properly captured by the regular presentations of expenditure, revenue, and debt.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

Page 75-77.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

33. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on extra-budgetary funds for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund; and complete income, expenditure, and financing data on a gross basis.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 33 focuses on extra-budgetary funds, asking whether "core" information related to these funds, which exist outside the budget, are presented. These core components include:

- *a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund (i.e., why was a particular fund set up? what is it used for?); and*
- *estimates of its income, expenditure, and financing. (These estimates should be presented on a gross basis so that it is possible to tell how much money flows through each extra-budgetary fund.)*

In most countries, governments engage in certain budgetary activities that are not included in the central government's budget. Known as extra-budgetary funds, they can range in size and scope. For example, countries frequently set up pension and social security programs as extra-budgetary funds, where the revenues collected and the benefits paid are recorded in a separate fund outside the budget. Another example of an extra-budgetary fund can be found in countries dependent on hydrocarbon/mineral resources, where revenues from producing and selling those resources are channeled through systems outside the annual budget.

In some cases, the separation engendered by an extra-budgetary fund serves a legitimate political purpose, and the finances and activities of these funds are well documented. In other cases, however, this structure is used for obfuscation, and little or nothing is known about a fund's finances and activities.

The availability of information related to extra-budgetary funds is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the government's true fiscal position. In addition to the core information, other information about extra-budgetary funds is also desirable. Such information includes a discussion of the risks associated with the extra-budgetary fund; expenditures classified by economic, functional, or administrative unit; and the rules and procedures that govern the operations and management of the extra-budgetary fund.

For more information about extra-budgetary funds, see the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 2.1.1 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to extra-budgetary funds as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. A "b" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation presents all of the core information. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to extra-budgetary funds is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on extra-budgetary funds.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for all extra-budgetary funds.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

There are no material changes from the previous of OBS 2017. The main extra budgetary fund is the pension fund which is fully accounted for in the EBP. Moreover all information concerning the net-budgeted entities are included in annex 4, pages 210 onwards. There might be some other extrabudgetary funds, not substantial, not included. However, all in all, core information is presented for all extra-budgetary funds.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

To maintain consistency across survey countries, the response is revised from "b" to "a."

34. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 34 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documents present the finances of the central government on a consolidated basis, showing both its budgetary and extra-budgetary activities. Virtually all of the questions in the OBS questionnaire focus on budgetary central government – the activities of the ministries, departments, or agencies of central government. In addition, Question 33 asks about extra-budgetary funds, such as social security funds that are not included in the budget.

Coverage is an important aspect of fiscal reporting. Budget documents should cover the full scope of government's financial activity. In many countries, extra-budgetary activities are substantial, and can represent a sizable share of the central government's activities. To get a full picture of the central government's finances, therefore, it is necessary to examine both activities that are included in the budget and those that are extra-budgetary. This question asks whether such a consolidated presentation of central government finances is provided.

The central government is only one component of the overall public sector. The public sector also includes other levels of government, such as state and local government, and public corporations. (See Box 2.1 under Principle 1.1.1 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018):

<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml> For the purpose of answering this question, please consider only the central government level.

In order to answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year.

Answer:

a. Yes, central government finances are presented on a consolidated basis.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

See table 2.1 on page 14 of the Yellow Book (Tabell 2.1 Hovedtall i statsbudsjettet og Statens pensjonsfond utenom låntransaksjoner).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

35. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of intergovernmental transfers for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 35 asks about intergovernmental transfers. In many cases, the central government supports the provision of a good or service by a lower level of government through an intergovernmental transfer of funds. This is necessary because, independent from the level of administrative decentralization that exists in a given country, the capacity for revenue collection of a local government is unlikely to be sufficient to pay for all its expenses. However, because the activity is not being undertaken by an administrative unit of the central government, it is unlikely to receive the same level of review in the budget. Thus it is important to include in the budget proposal a statement that explicitly indicates the amount and purposes of these transfers.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all intergovernmental transfers and a narrative discussing these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all intergovernmental transfers are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, intergovernmental transfers (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all intergovernmental transfers are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

See Section 3.3.3 of the Yellow Book, page 45, and it's related 3.11 ("Tabell 3.11 Overføringer til andre (postene 50–89)")

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Additional reference to the supporting budget document from the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, chapter 3 Det økonomiske opplegget for kommunesektoren. Source: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-1-s-20182019/id2613128/sec1#kap3>

36. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region) to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 36 asks about "alternative displays" of expenditures that highlight the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens. As discussed above, expenditures are typically presented by at least one of three classifications – administrative, functional, and economic classifications (see Questions 1-5) – and by individual program (Question 6). In addition, governments can provide alternative displays to emphasize different aspects of expenditure policies and to show who benefits from these expenditures.

For the purpose of answering this question, the alternative presentation must differ from the presentations (such as administrative, functional, or economic classifications or presentation by program) used to answer other questions. The alternative display can cover all expenditures or only a portion of expenditures. For instance, it can show how all expenditures are distributed according to geographic region or it can show how selected expenditures (such as the health budget or the agriculture budget) are distributed to different regions. But such a geographic display must be something different than the presentation of intergovernmental transfers used to answer question 35. One exception is when a country includes a special presentation of all policies intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (and is used to answer Question 52) then that can be considered an alternative display for purposes of answering this question as well. Finally, brief fact sheets showing how proposals in the budget benefit particular groups would be insufficient; only more detailed presentations would be considered.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?"

(<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of the importance of alternative displays of budget information and provides a number of examples. For instance,

- *Bangladesh in its 2017-18 Budget included a detailed supplementary Gender Budgeting Report, which presents the spending dedicated to advancing women across various departments. (<https://mof.portal.gov.bd/site/page/3bb14732-b5b1-44df-9921-efedf1496295>).*
- *The UK's 2017 budget included a supplementary analysis that provided a distributional analysis of the budget by households in different income groups (see https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661465/distributional_analysis_autumn_budget_2017.pdf)*
- *South Africa's 2017 Budget Review goes beyond the standard presentation of intergovernmental transfers, discussing the redistribution that results from national revenue flowing to the provinces and municipalities and presenting the allocations on a per capita basis (see chapter 6, <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2017/review/FullBR.pdf>).*

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least three different presentations that illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least two different alternative displays of expenditures. A "c" applies if only one type of alternative display of expenditure is presented. Answer "d" applies if no alternative display of expenditure is presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, two alternative displays of expenditures are presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Fylkesoversikt/>

Comment:

The EPB displays the regional distribution per county.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, two alternative displays of expenditures are presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Comments: It does contain regional distribution but also impact on income groups and specific targets groups compliant with policies to rise income and/or level of services to specific groups.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Regional and age group distribution effects of policies are displayed.

IBP Comment

The comments from the researcher and peer reviewer are well received. The link provided by the researcher displays only budget measures on a regional basis, without displaying expenditures by age or income range/group. However, the EBP package also contains a document outlining expenditures directed towards Norway's Sami community (see https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/2019_bevilgninger_til_samiske_formaal.pdf). The response is therefore revised from "c" to "b."

36b. Based on the response to Question 36, select the box(es) below to identify which types of alternative displays are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Other displays of expenditure (please specify)

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Fylkesoversikt/>

Comment:

There is a geographical/regional display of infrastructure investments in transport and communications and other specific investments and grants at county level.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: It also includes policy impact based on age groups - in particular youth and pensioners as well as income groups e.g. impact of changes to taxes and transfers/grants.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

When going into the assessment of different policies, f ex tax policies and how they impact on different segments of the population income groups and age groups can be included.

IBP Comment

Please see the "IBP Staff" comment for Q36; the options "Policy impacts based on income" and "Policy impacts based on age" cannot be selected. "Other displays of expenditure" is retained in light of the Regional Overview (<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Fylkesoversikt/>) and the document "Bevilgninger til samiske formål i statsbudsjettet 2019" (see https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/2019_bevilgninger_til_samiske_formaal.pdf).

37. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of transfers to public corporations for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 37 asks about transfers to public corporations. It is often the case that governments have a stake in enterprises that manage resources that are particularly relevant for the public good (such as electricity, water, and oil). While these public corporations can operate independently, in some cases the government will provide direct support by making transfers to these corporations, including to subsidize capital investment and operating expenses.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all transfers to public corporations and a narrative discussing the purposes of these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all transfers to public

corporations are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, transfers to public corporations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

The EBP provides an overview of what they call "transfers to others" on pages 200-201 in Table 2.5. Transfers to others are classified in the economic classification digit 5 and 6 (post level). These transfers are either: a) to budget entities with specific authorities that imply net budgeting principles (post 50 series), b) to municipalities (post 60 series) or to separate juridical subjects (post 70 series). The individual entities are identified and listed in the table.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

38. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity and the intended beneficiaries.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 38 focuses on quasi-fiscal activities, asking whether "core" information related to such activities is presented. These core components include:

- *A statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity (i.e., what is the reason for engaging in this activity?);*
- *The identification of intended beneficiaries of the quasi-fiscal activity.*

The term "quasi-fiscal activities" refers to a broad range of activities that are fiscal in character and could be carried out through the regular budget process but are not. For example, a quasi-fiscal activity could take place if, instead of providing a direct subsidy through the budget for a particular activity, a public financial institution provides an indirect subsidy by offering loans at below-market rates for that activity. Similarly, it is a quasi-fiscal activity when an enterprise provides goods or services at prices below commercial rates to certain individuals or groups to support the government's policy goals.

The above examples are policy choices that may be approved by the government and legislature. However, quasi-fiscal activities can also involve activities that violate or circumvent a country's budget process laws or are not subject to the regular legislative approval process for expenditures. For example, the executive may issue an informal order to a government entity, such as a public commercial enterprise, to provide the executive with goods and services that normally would have to be purchased with funding authorized by the legislature. All quasi-fiscal activities should be disclosed to the public and subject to public scrutiny.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about quasi-fiscal activities, including for example: the anticipated duration of the quasi-fiscal activity; a quantification of the activity and the assumptions that support these estimates; and a discussion of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the activity, including the impact on the entity carrying out the activity. Principle 3.3.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) provides examples of quasi-fiscal activities that can be consulted as needed. And more details on quasi-fiscal activities can be found in the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to all quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to quasi-fiscal activities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on quasi-fiscal activities.

If quasi-fiscal activities do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for all quasi-fiscal activities.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/3-Budsjettets-inntekter-og>

utgifter-etter-art/

Comment:

There are some areas that can be defined as quasi-final activities such as the state banks providing subsidized loans and grants to students. These are listed with a narrative in the EBP and are also described in further detail with financial and a narrative beyond the core information in the supplementary budget information of each Ministry responsible for state banks and similar activities. See section 3.3.4 of the Yellow Book, pages 46-47 (also available in HTML format, as cited above).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

39. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets, and an estimate of their value.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 39 focuses on financial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. These core components include:

- *A listing of the financial assets; and*
- *An estimate of their value.*

Governments own financial assets such as cash, bonds, or equities. Unlike private sector businesses, however, few governments maintain balance sheets that show the value of their assets and liabilities.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about financial assets, including for example: a discussion of their purpose; historical information on defaults; differences between reported values and market values; and a summary of financial assets as part of the government's balance sheet.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to all financial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to financial assets is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on financial assets held by the government.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for all financial assets.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/3-Budsjettets-inntekter-og-utgifter-etter-art/>

Comment:

There is a listing of the financial assets, including pension fund, and other state owned institutions/enterprises. See for example table 3.7 that shows dividend from various companies. See also the section dedicated to the Petroleum Fund (3.4 of the Yellow Book), and the Pension Fund (section 3.4.2 on page 48)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

40. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on nonfinancial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets by category.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 40 focuses on nonfinancial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. The core information is a listing of nonfinancial assets, grouped by the type (or category) of asset.

Nonfinancial assets are things of value that the government owns or controls (excluding financial assets) such as land, buildings, and machinery. The valuation of public nonfinancial assets can be problematic, particularly in cases where the asset is not typically available on the open market (such as a government monument). In these cases, it is considered acceptable to provide summary information in budget documents from a country's register of assets. But, in some cases, governments are able to value their nonfinancial assets; some present a summary of nonfinancial assets as part of their balance sheets. For an example of how nonfinancial assets are presented in one of the many supporting documents to the New Zealand Executive's Budget Proposal, see the Forecast Financial Statement 2011, Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued), Note 14, accessible here: <https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2011-05/befu11-pt6of8.pdf>.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year a listing by category of all nonfinancial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to nonfinancial assets is presented, but some nonfinancial assets are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on nonfinancial assets held by the government.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some nonfinancial assets.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/3-Budsjettets-inntekter-og-utgifter-etter-art/>

Comment:

There isn't a listing of the nonfinancial assets, but one can see, in section 3.2.2 of the Yellow Book, the "income related to new buildings, facilities, etc."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all nonfinancial assets.

Comments: A list of non-financial assets are presented in a separate document annexed to the EBP ref. <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/planbygg-og-eiendom/statlig-eiendomsforvaltning/statens-eiendommer/id2564052/> with details of assets available in a public database.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

The non-financial assets presented include the properties only. However, in terms of materiality this might constitute the most important non-financial assets. A b) score is therefore appropriate.

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment and researcher's "Response to Review" are well noted, although the document and database linked by the peer reviewer present information for 2018 (BY-1) rather than 2019. However, some of the ministry-specific EBP files contain information on non-financial assets. For example, please see pp. 369-370 of the document for the Ministry of Education and Research (https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/kd.pdf), which lists the cost, location, and size of building projects for BY 2019. The response is therefore revised from "d" to "c."

41. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure arrears for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 41 asks about estimates of expenditure arrears, which arise when government has entered into a commitment to spend funds but has not made the payment when it is due. (For more information see sections 3.49-3.50 of the IMF's GFS Manual 2001, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf> (page 29)). Though equivalent to borrowing, this liability is often not recorded in the budget, making it difficult to assess fully a government's financial position. Moreover, the obligation to repay this debt affects the government's ability to pay for other activities.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all expenditure arrears and a narrative discussing the arrears. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all expenditure arrears are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, expenditure arrears (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of expenditure arrears are presented.

If expenditure arrears do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question. Public expenditure management laws and regulations often will allow for reasonable delays, perhaps 30 or 60 days, in the routine payment of invoices due. Expenditure arrears impacting a small percentage of expenditure that are due to contractual disputes should not be considered a significant problem for the purpose of answering this question.

Answer:

e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/3-Budsjettets-inntekter-og-utgifter-etter-art/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Per the source provided by the researcher, no expenditure arrears are present (see also Chapter 7 of the "Gulbok" file at https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf). The response is revised from "d" to "e" to ensure consistency across survey countries.

42. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities, such as government loan guarantees or insurance programs, for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability; the new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments (the gross exposure) at the end of the budget year.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 42 focuses on contingent liabilities, asking whether "core" information related to these liabilities is presented. These core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability;
- the new contingent liabilities for the budget year, such as new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and
- the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments at the end of the budget year. This reflects the gross exposure of the government in the case that all guarantees or commitments come due (even though that may be unlikely to occur).

Contingent liabilities are recognized under a cash accounting method only when the contingent event occurs and the payment is made. An example of such liabilities is the case of loans guaranteed by the central government, which can include loans to state-owned banks and other state-owned commercial enterprises, subnational governments, or private enterprises. Under such guarantees, government will only make a payment if the borrower defaults. Thus a key issue for making quantitative estimates of these liabilities is assessing the likelihood of the contingency occurring.

In the budget, according to the OECD, "[w]here feasible, the total amount of contingent liabilities should be disclosed and classified by major category reflecting their nature; historical information on defaults for each category should be disclosed where available. In cases where contingent liabilities cannot be quantified, they should be listed and described."

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about contingent liabilities, including for example: historical default rates for each program, and likely default rates in the future; the maximum guarantee that is authorized by law; any special financing associated with the guarantee (e.g., whether fees are charged, whether a reserve fund exists for the purpose of paying off guarantees, etc.); the duration of each guarantee; and an estimate of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the guarantees.

For more details on contingent liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and page 59 (Box 11) and Principle 3.2.3 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to contingent liabilities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to contingent liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on contingent liabilities.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for all contingent liabilities.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/7-Statens-lanebehov/>

Comment:

Authorizations to contract loans and other contingent liabilities are reported and described as part of the EBP (Section 7 of the Yellow Book).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The White Paper on the state accounts (financial statement), annex 4 provides a total overview of state guarantees. Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-3-20182019/id2642522/sec9> New guarantees for the Budget Year is documented in the EBP (the Yellow Book), Annex 5, Table 5.2. Source: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-1-s-gul-bok-20182019/id2613810/sec15?q=statslån#ved5-2>

43. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present projections that assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term?

(The core information must cover a period of at least 10 years and include the macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used and a discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 43 focuses on government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer-term, asking whether "core" information related to these issues is presented. These core components must include:

- *Projections that cover a period of at least 10 years.*
- *The macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used in making the projections.*
- *A discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections. Good public financial management calls for budgets to include fiscal sustainability analyses.*

The IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) recommends that governments regularly publish the projected evolution of the public finances over the longer term (see Principle 3.1.3.). Future liabilities are a particularly important element when assessing the sustainability of public finances over the long term. Future liabilities are the result of government commitments that, unlike contingent liabilities, are virtually certain to occur at some future point and result in an expenditure. A typical example consists of government obligations to pay pension benefits or cover health care costs of future retirees. Under a cash accounting system, only current payments associated with such obligations are recognized in the budget. To capture the future impact on the budget of these liabilities, a separate statement is required.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about the sustainability of their finances, including for example: projections that cover 20 or 30 years; multiple scenarios with different sets of assumptions; assumptions about other factors (such as the depletion of natural resources) that go beyond just the core macroeconomic and demographic data; and a detailed presentation of particular programs that have long time horizons, such as civil service pensions.

For more details on future liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of government finances over the longer term as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to future liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on future liabilities and the sustainability of government's finances

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented to assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Prop-1-S/7-Statens-lanebehov/>

Comment:

The sustainability as such is not discussed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented to assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term.

Comments: https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/stm.pdf presenting analysis of the fiscal position of the Gov. for future years.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Every 4th year the Government submits a White Paper to the Storting on long term (50 years) perspectives and sustainability, the latest one was presented in 2017. Source: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/okonomi-og-budsjett/norsk_okonomi/perspektivmeldingen-2017/id2484715/

Researcher Response

The question relates to the EBP. The peer reviewer correctly points out that an overview of the government's future liabilities is presented together with a very limited discussion of sustainability. A b) score would be appropriate. The government response is not taken into account. The information referred to is not presented on an annual basis as part of the annual budget proposal.

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-noted. In addition, in light of the information contained in section 3.1.4 on pages 51-58, the response is revised from "b" to "a" to ensure consistency across survey countries.

44. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 44 asks about estimates of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind assistance. Such assistance is considered non-tax revenue, and the sources of this assistance should be explicitly identified. In terms of in-kind assistance, the concern is primarily with the provision of goods (particularly those for which there is a market that would allow goods received as in-kind aid to be sold, thereby converting them into cash) rather than with in-kind aid like advisors from a donor country providing technical assistance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all donor assistance and a narrative discussing the assistance. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all donor assistance are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, donor assistance (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if the sources of donor assistance are not presented, but the total amount of donor assistance is presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of donor assistance are presented. Select answer "e" if your country does not receive donor assistance.

Answer:

e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/#87796>

Comment:

No there is no narrative about the fact that Norway does not receive donor assistance to finance the budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

45. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on tax expenditures for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each tax expenditure, the intended beneficiaries, and an estimate of the revenue foregone.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 45 focuses on tax expenditures, asking whether "core" information related to these tax preferences is presented. These core components must include for both new and existing tax expenditures:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale;
- a listing of the intended beneficiaries; and
- an estimate of the revenue foregone.

Tax expenditures arise as a result of exceptions or other preferences in the tax code provided for specified entities, individuals, or activities. Tax expenditures often have the same impact on public policy and budgets as providing direct subsidies, benefits, or goods and services. For example, encouraging a company to engage in more research through a special tax break can have the same effect as subsidizing it directly through the expenditure side of the budget, as it still constitutes a cost in terms of foregone revenues. However, expenditure items that require annual authorization are likely to receive more scrutiny than tax breaks that are a permanent feature of the tax code.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about tax expenditures, including for example: the intended beneficiaries by sector and income class (distributional impact); a statement of the estimating assumptions, including the definition of the benchmark against which the foregone revenue is measured; and a discussion of tax expenditures as part of a general discussion of expenditures for those program areas that receive both types of government support (in order to better inform policy choices). For more details on tax expenditures, see *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 1.1.4 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, all of the core information related to tax expenditures as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to tax expenditures is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on tax expenditures.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some tax expenditures.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/skatt.pdf

Comment:

Estimates or other financial information related to tax expenditures are not included, but tax revenue consequences of changes in the fiscal regime are discussed in the document "Skatter, avgifter og toll 2019" cited above.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some tax expenditures.

Comments: There is no detailed information on tax expenditures for the budget year. However, the Budget document on taxes, government fees and public duty, section 2.7 Anslag på skatteutgifter og skattesanksjoner provides a discussion on tax expenditures in general and provides estimates for BY-1. This is elaborated in more detail in Annex 1 of the mentioned budget document including detailed estimates on tax expenditures of the BY-1 and BY-2. This the same situation as in 2017 (answer c). Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/skatt.pdf

Researcher Response

A c) score could also be considered.

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted, but as the materials they refer to cover periods prior to the budget year, they cannot be evaluated for Q45. Nevertheless, some information is presented in Chapter 4 of the Meld. St. 1 /Nasjonaldokumentet 2019 document (https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/stm.pdf)- see for example Table 4.1 on page 100. The response is revised from "d" to "c."

46. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of earmarked revenues for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 46 asks about estimates of earmarked revenues, which are revenues that may only be used for a specific purpose (for example, revenues from a tax on fuel that can only be used for building roads). This information is important in determining which revenues are available to fund the government's general expenses, and which revenues are reserved for particular purposes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all earmarked revenues and a narrative discussing the earmarks. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all earmarked revenues are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, earmarked revenues (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of earmarked revenues are presented. An "e" response applies if revenue is not earmarked or the practice is disallowed by law or regulation.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all earmarked revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

All ear-marked revenue are assigned specific economic classifications, the 5th and 6th digit, post series 21.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

47. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how the proposed budget is linked to all the government's policy goals for the budget year are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

The main EBP document presents the priorities and the policy goals of the budget. More detailed presentations both with financial data and narratives are included in the supplementary documents for all the ministries and sectors, which can be found here: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/#87796> (the section titled "Fagdepartementenes proposisjoner").

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

48. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how the proposed budget is linked to all the government's policy goals for a multi-year period are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf

Comment:

A multiyear link between the policy goals and the budget is not presented.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how the proposed budget is linked to all the government's policy goals for a multi-year period are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: Stated in the National Budget Document which is submitted along side the state budget;

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/stm.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government's policy goals for a multi-year period is presented.

Comments: The Government has published two long-term policy documents, for the transport sector and the defence sector. The relevant ministry provides an assessment and a discussion on multi-year policy goals in these sectors and the budget proposals in their supporting budget documents, available at <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/>, Fagdepartementenes proposisjoner. For example the Ministry of Transport and Communications discusses the budget proposal in relation to the policy document for the period 2018-2023, see chapter 6 Oppfølging av økonomisk ramme for perioden 2018–2023, Prop. 1 S. Source: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Fagdepartementenes-proposisjoner/Samferdselsdepartementet-SD/Prop-1-S-/Del-3-Omtale-av-viktige-oppfolgingsomrade-/6-Oppfolging-av-Nasjonalt-transportplan-20182029/>

Researcher Response

With reference to the sector specific multi-year strategies a C rating can be given. The rating here is a bit tricky. An a rating could also be provided depending on the qualitative assessment criteria to be used.

IBP Comment

The comments from the external reviewers are well noted. In light of the information contained in Chapter 5 of the Gul Bok/Statsbudsjettet (https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf), the response is revised from "d" to "a."

49. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on inputs to be acquired for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 49 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on inputs for the budget year. (Nonfinancial data on outputs and outcomes are addressed in Question 50.)

The budget should disclose not only the amount of money that is being allocated on a program but also any information needed to analyze that expenditure. Nonfinancial data and performance targets associated with budget proposals are used to assess the success of a given policy. For example, even when allocated funds are spent according to plan, there remains the question of whether the policy delivered the results that it aimed to achieve.

Nonfinancial data can include information on:

Inputs - These are the resources assigned to achieve results. For example, in regards to education, nonfinancial data on inputs could include the number of books to be provided to each school or the materials to be used to build or refurbish a school.

Outputs - These are products and services delivered as a result of inputs. For example, the number of pupils taught every year; the number of children that received vaccines; or the number of beneficiaries of a social security program.

Outcomes - These are the intended impact or policy goals achieved. For example, an increase in literacy rates among children under 10, or a reduction in rates of maternal mortality.

In addition, governments that set performance targets must use nonfinancial data for outputs and outcomes to determine if these targets have been met.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program is organized by functions. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on inputs for all administrative units or all functions, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on inputs are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on inputs is presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, nonfinancial data on inputs are provided for each program within all administrative units (or functions).

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Fagdepartementenes-proposisjoner/Helse-og-omsorgsdepartementet-HOD/Prop-1-S-Del-3-Omtale-av-sarlige-tema-5-Spesialisthelsetjenesten/>

All ministries-specific information can be viewed here: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/#87796>, in the section titled "Fagdepartementenes proposisjoner."

Comment:

I provide the example from the health sector there the supplementary document with detailed information about the health sector budget describes the number of man-hours put into strengthened services for mental health. This is just one of many examples of input-related non-financial data in the narratives of programs.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

50. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on results (in terms of outputs or outcomes) for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 50 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 49).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on results for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on results for each individual program is organized by functional classification. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on results for all administrative units or all functional classifications, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within

those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on results are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on results is presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, nonfinancial data on results are provided for each program within all administrative units (or functions).

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Fagdepartementenes-proposisjoner/Helse-og-omsorgsdepartementet-HOD/Prop-1-S-/Del-3-Omtale-av-sarlige-tema-/5-Spesialisthelsetjenesten/>

All ministries-specific information can be viewed here: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/#87796>, in the section titled "Fagdepartementenes proposisjoner."

Comment:

Based on the Health sector and the main EBP including supplementary documents the example shows how results data are provided in the budget proposal documentation.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

51. Are performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results in the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation?

GUIDELINES:

Question 51 asks about performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. The question applies to those nonfinancial results shown in the budget, and that were identified for purposes of Question 50.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to all nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to a majority (but not all) of the nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget. A "c" response applies if performance targets are assigned only to less than half of the nonfinancial data on results. Answer "d" applies if no performance targets are assigned to nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget, or the budget does not present nonfinancial results.

Answer:

b. Yes, performance targets are assigned to most nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Fagdepartementenes-proposisjoner/Helse-og-omsorgsdepartementet-HOD/Prop-1-S-/Del-1-Innledende-del-/2-Profilen-i-budsjettforlaget/>

Comment:

The overall regulatory framework sets out the principle of results-based management. The compliance to this is generally solid. This implied that in principle, and by regulation, there is a result-based framework for all expenditure. The actual practices vary across the sectors and agencies that form part of the Norwegian government budget entities. In the Norwegian budget documents it is mainly in the supplementary documents for all line ministries that most details are found on the targets set as part of the results based framework(s). The health sector example shows how specific non-financial targets are defined as part of the EBP included in the supplementary documents. In this supplementary document to the EBP we find the following example of a non-financial target for 2019: Increasing the number of day activity vacancies for dementia patients living at home: "12 450 flere dagaktivitetsplasser for hjemmeboende med demens"

Det foreslås 50mill. kroner til om lag 450 nye dagaktivitetsplasser for hjemmeboende personer med demens. Kommuner som etablerer nye dagaktivitetsplasser i 2019 vil få økt tilskuddssats for disse svarende til 50 pst. av antatte kostnader. Det er da lagt til rette for vel 8800 plasser gjennom tilskuddsordningen fra tilskuddet ble opprettet i 2012 t.o.m. 2019. Det vil anslagsvis være etablert opp mot 3800 plasser med støtte fra tilskuddsordningen ved utgangen av 2018, som inkluderer videreførte og nye plasser. Ved videreføring av opprettede plasser fra 2012–2018 vil kommunene få beregnet tilskudd på 30 pst. av antatte kostnader, som for 2018. Målet er å bygge ut tjenestetilbudet før plikten for kommunene til å tilby et dagaktivitetstilbud til hjemmeboende personer med demens gjøres gjeldende fra 1. januar 2020.

This is only one of numerous examples.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: As above there are several functions/programs with performance targets though not consistent and most often allocations are not based on costing of targets (i.e. not fully complying with Program Based Budgeting approaches).

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

52. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations in at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 52 asks whether the budget highlight policies, both new and existing, that benefit the poorest segments of society. This question is intended to assess only those programs that directly address the immediate needs of the poor, such as through cash assistance programs or the provision of housing, rather than indirectly, such as through a stronger national defense. This information is of particular interest to those seeking to bolster government's commitment to anti-poverty efforts. For purposes of answering this question, a departmental budget (such as for the Department of Social Welfare) would not be considered acceptable. In general, this question is asking whether the EBP includes a special presentation that pulls together estimates of all the relevant policies in one place. However, if the country uses "program budgeting," where programs are presented as expenditure categories with specific and identified objectives, and it identifies anti-poverty programs within each administrative unit, then that is also acceptable for this question.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?" (<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of countries that have provided information on how its policies affect the poor.

For instance, Pakistan provides a detailed breakdown of pro-poor expenditure as part of its 2017-18 budget proposal. In one document, the government sets out policy priorities, expected outputs, and estimates of past and future spending for several programs aimed at poverty alleviation. Another supporting document provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing policies, including a chapter on social safety nets, covering both financial and performance information of poverty alleviation schemes over a period of eight years. (http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/mtbf_2018_21.pdf and http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey_1718.html).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must for at least the budget year both present estimates covering all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations and include a narrative discussion that specifically addresses these policies. (For countries using program budgeting that breaks out individual anti-poverty programs, there should be a separate narrative associated with each such program.) Answer "b" if a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented. Answer "c" if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" if no estimates of policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are presented.

Source:

<https://www.nav.no/no/NAV+og+samfunn/Samarbeid/Tilskudd+gjennom+NAV/tilskudd-til-frivillig-arbeid-mot-fattigdom>

Comment:

Some years ago a specific poverty white paper was presented. As part of the EBP some policies were specifically addressed and discussed. These included some specific grants as part of social policies aimed at reducing poverty and social exclusion in Norway.

The budget process has also endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals and a commitment to analyse and present reports according to these: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Norges-oppfolging-av-barekraftsmalene/>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: For example, the Ministry of Children and Families presents an overview of estimates of policies and measures directed against poverty among children. Source: <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Fagdepartementenes-proposisjoner/bld/Prop-1-S-/Del-1-Innleiande-del-/1-Hovedprioriteringar--Innsats-for-utsette-barn-og-familier-/>

IBP Comment

The NAV link provided by the researcher is well noted, but does not comprise part of the EBP package. In addition, the page describing the follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals pertains to international development objectives, rather than specific measures targeting Norway's most impoverished populations. However, the main EBP file (Statsbudsjett - https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/gulbok.pdf) does contain some information on measures targeting child poverty; please see pages 93 and 110. The response is therefore revised from "a" to "c" to ensure consistency across survey countries.

53. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 53 asks about the budget timetable. An internal timetable is particularly important for the executive's management of the budget preparation process, in order to ensure that the executive accounts for the views of the different departments and agencies in the proposed budget. The timetable would, for instance, set deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. So that civil society is aware of the various steps in the budget formulation process, and when opportunities may exist to engage the executive, it is essential that this timetable be made available to the public.

To answer "a," the executive must prepare a detailed budget timetable and release it to the public. A "b" answer applies if the timetable is made public, but some details are not included. A "c" response applies if the timetable is made public, but many important details are excluded, reducing its value for those outside government. Answer "d" applies if no timetable is made available to the public. As long as a timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal is released, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Executive's Budget Proposal is not made publicly available.

Answer:

a. Yes, a detailed timetable is released to the public.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/okonomi-og-budsjett/statsbudsjettet/id1437/>
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/okonomi-og-budsjett/statsbudsjettet/budsjettkalender/id439273/>

Comment:

The timetable and the budget preparation process is described in detail and published at the cabinet (regjeringen) website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

54. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 54 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- nominal GDP level;
- inflation rate;
- real GDP growth; and
- interest rates.

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short- and long-term interest rates; the rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Nasjonaltbudsjettet-2019/Meld-St-1-/1-Hovedlinjer-i-den-okonomiske-politikken-og-utsiktene-for-norsk-okonomi-/>

Comment:

The nominal GDP level, the inflation rate, the real GDP growth, interest rates and some additional information are provided in the PBS. Unfortunately, this document was produced too late to be considered publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Comments: Ref. https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/stm.pdf. The comment by the reviewer maybe due to timing of the response with the PBS for 2019 not available

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-received. Because the 2019 PBS is considered not publicly available due to late publication, the survey guidelines indicate that response "d" be maintained.

55. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities and an estimate of total expenditures.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 55 focuses on the government's expenditure policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- *a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities; and*
- *an estimate of total expenditures.*

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed programmatic proposals (such detailed information is typically only presented in the budget itself), it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least total expenditures associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can include some detail, for instance, estimates provided by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Nasjonalbudsjettet-2019/Meld-St-1-/3-Den-okonomiske-politikken-/>

Comment:

The PBS includes information about expenditures policies and priorities and includes an estimate of total expenditures. Additionally the documents provides information beyond these core elements. Unfortunately, the PBS was published too late to be considered publicly available, hence the "d" response.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the government's expenditure policies and priorities.

Comments: Same as previous

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-received. Because the 2019 PBS is considered not publicly available due to late publication, the survey guidelines indicate that response "d" be maintained.

56. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's revenue policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of revenue policies and priorities and an estimate of total revenues.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 56 focuses on the government's revenue policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of revenue policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total revenue.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed revenue proposals, it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can also include more detail, for instance, with estimates provided by revenue category – tax and non-tax – or some of the major individual sources of revenue, such as the Value Added Tax or the income tax.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Nasjonaltbudsjettet-2019/Meld-St-1-4-Hovedtrekk-i-skatte-og-avgiftspolitikken/>

Comment:

The PBS includes information about beyond the core elements on fiscal regime, revenue estimates etc. Unfortunately, the PBS was published late, hence the "d" response.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the government's revenue policies and priorities.

Comments: same as previous

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-received. Because the 2019 PBS is considered not publicly available due to late publication, the survey guidelines indicate that response "d" be maintained.

57. Does Pre-Budget Statement present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 57 asks whether the Pre-Budget Statement includes three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- the amount of net new borrowing needed in the upcoming budget year;

- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the upcoming budget year; and
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the upcoming budget year.

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt for at least the upcoming budget year. For a "b" answer, the Pre-Budget Statement must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the PBS must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the PBS.

Answer:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Nasjonalbudsjettet-2019/Meld-St-1-/>

Comment:

Information about financing of the budget is provided (and this would satisfy the criteria for a "c" response). However, the PBS was published too late to be considered publicly available, hence a "d" response was selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Comments: Same as previous ref: https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/stm.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-received. Because the 2019 PBS is considered not publicly available due to late publication, the survey guidelines indicate that response "d" be maintained.

58. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present estimates of total expenditures for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 58 asks about multi-year expenditure estimates in the Pre-Budget Statement.

To answer "a," expenditure estimates for at least two years beyond the upcoming budget year must be presented. The estimates must be for at least total expenditures, but could include more detail than just the aggregate total.

Answer:

b. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Dokumenter1/Budsjettdokumenter/Nasjonalbudsjettet-2019/Meld-St-1-/>

Comment:

This information is provided in the EBP an not the PBS. In addition, the PBS was published too late to be considered publicly available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

59. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 59 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of the three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

The EB includes all three expenditure classifications (administrative, economic and functional). Whereas the administrative and the economic are clearly accessible to all. The functional classification is derived from the program categories established by the programmatic combined with the economic classification and is thus only implicit. There are no changes from the previous OBS, the one in 2017.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf> In addition, the researcher's comment is well-noted; the response is revised from "b" to "a" to ensure consistency across survey countries.

59b. Based on the response to Question 59, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Enacted Budget:

Answer:

Administrative classification
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

All three classifications are included in the EB.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf>

60. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 60 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all programs, which account for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, individual programs are included, starting from page 8 of the EB, under each ministry/department.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf> Response "a" is unchanged; individual programs are included under each ministry/department beginning at page 8 of the above document.

61. Does the Enacted Budget present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 61 asks whether revenue estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

Revenue is classified by category. See an overview of revenue estimates on page 7 of the Blue book, and more detail, including narrative, starting from page 54 and following

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf> Response "a" is unchanged; see an overview of revenue estimates on page 7, and additional details on pp. 55-70.

62. Does the Enacted Budget present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 62 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Enacted Budget. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue that account for less than two-thirds of revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

Detailed revenue information is provided in the Enacted Budget. See page 7, and pages 54 and following of the Blue book.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettsiden/blabok2018.pdf>

63. Does the Enacted Budget present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 63 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year;*

the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Enacted Budget must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Enacted Budget must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

The EB includes the net changes in the borrowing and the interest payments.
See page 47 of the blue book (Statsgjeld, renter og avdrag mv.)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The EB being evaluated is that of FY 2018, as the FY 2019 version was published after the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2018. The link to the 2018 EB is: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/budsjettetsiden/blaabok2018.pdf> The response of "b" is unchanged; this document includes net new borrowing and interest payments for FY 2018- see pg. 47 ("Statsgjeld, renter og avdrag mv.").

64. What information is provided in the Citizens Budget?

(The core information must include expenditure and revenue totals, the main policy initiatives in the budget, the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based, and contact information for follow-up by citizens.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 64 focuses on the content of the Citizens Budget, asking whether "core" information is presented. These core components include:

- *expenditure and revenue totals;*
- *the main policy initiatives in the budget;*
- *the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based; and*
- *contact information for follow-up by citizens.*

To answer "a," the Citizens Budget or supporting documentation must present all of the above core information as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Citizens Budget must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if the Citizens Budget includes some of the core components above, but other core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if a Citizens Budget is not published.

Answer:

c. The Citizens Budget provides information, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:
<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Comment:
The citizens budget includes more narrative than financial data. Totals on expenditure and revenue are not included; The citizens budget includes the main policy initiatives in the budget; and some information about the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based; and contact information for follow-up by citizens.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Totals on revenue and expenditures are included in some of the summary documentations.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

65. How is the Citizens Budget disseminated to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 65 asks how the Citizens Budget is disseminated to the public. Citizens Budgets should be made available to a variety of audiences. Therefore paper versions and an Internet posting of a document might not be sufficient.

To answer "a," the executive must use three or more different types of creative media tools to reach the largest possible share of the population, including those who otherwise would not normally have access to budget documents or information. Dissemination would also be pursued at the very local level, so that the coverage is targeted both by geographic area and population group (e.g., women, elderly, low income, urban, rural, etc.). Option "b" applies if significant dissemination efforts are made through a combination of two means of communications, for instance, both posting the Citizens Budget on the executive's official website and distributing printed copies of it. Option "c" applies if the Citizens Budget is disseminated through only posting on the executive's official website. Option "d" applies when the executive does not publish a Citizens Budget.

Answer:

b. A Citizens Budget is published by using at least two, but less than three, means of dissemination, but no other dissemination efforts are undertaken by the executive.

Source:
<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Comment:
The citizen budget is disseminated mainly through internet and the web-page.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. A Citizens Budget is published by using at least two, but less than three, means of dissemination, but no other dissemination efforts are undertaken by the executive.

Comments: It is presented both at Government website and also distributed in summary form to media as press release which result in wide media coverage when the budget is tabled in the Parliament

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Per follow-up communication with the peer reviewer, the Citizens Budget is also discussed via a video-recorded press release. See: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/pressekonferanse-om-statsbudsjettet-for-2019/id2612989/>. The response is revised from "c" to "b."

66. Has the executive established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information prior to publishing the Citizens Budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 66 asks whether the executive has established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information before publishing a Citizens

Budget. What the public wants to know about the budget might differ from the information the executive includes in technical documents that comprise the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget; similarly, different perspectives might exist on how the budget should be presented, and this may vary depending on the context. For this reason the executive should consult with the public on the content and presentation of the Citizens Budget.

To answer "a," the executive must have established mechanisms to consult with the public, and these mechanisms for consultation are both accessible and widely used by the public. Such mechanisms can include focus groups, social networks, surveys, hotlines, and meetings/events in universities or other locations where people gather to discuss public issues. In countries where Citizens Budgets are consistently produced and released, it may be sufficient for the government to provide the public with contact information and feedback opportunities, and subsequently use the feedback to improve its management of public resources.

Option "b" applies if the executive has established mechanisms for consultation that are accessible to the public, but that the public nonetheless does not use frequently. That is, the public does not typically engage with the executive on the content of the Citizens Budget, even though the executive has created opportunities for such consultation. Option "c" applies if the executive has established mechanism for consultation with the public, but they are poorly designed and thus not accessible to the public. Option "d" applies if the executive has not created any mechanisms to seek feedback from the public on the content of the Citizens Budget.

Answer:

d. No, the executive has not established any mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Comment:

Some ad hoc initiatives might have been applied but no systematic mechanism whereupon the citizens or their representatives can provide input and feedback have been put in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

67. Are "citizens" versions of budget documents published throughout the budget process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 67 asks if "citizens" versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget process. While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle.

To answer "a," a citizens version of at least one budget document is published for each of the four stages of the budget process (budget formulation, enactment, execution, and audit) – for a total of at least four citizens budget documents throughout the process. Option "b" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process. Option "c" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least one of the four stages of the budget process. Select option "d" if no "citizens" version of budget documents is published.

Answer:

b. A citizens version of budget documents is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process.

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Statsbudsjettet-2019/Artikler/Statsbudsjett-pa-1-2-3/>
<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2019/Artikler/Revidert-budsjett-pa-1-2-3/>

Comment:

A CB is presented for the EPB and the Revised budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

68. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 68 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," actual expenditures must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if actual expenditures are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by any of the three classifications in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

General link to all IYRs is here: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Examples:

October 2018

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manadsvi-statsregnskap-for-oktober-2018>

March 2019

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-mars-2019-1>

Comment:

The reports include all three expenditure classifications.

See, specifically, the second link to the excel file "Utgiftene til staten (uformatert)." The spreadsheet shows expenditures coded by Administrative unit, function and economic classification (departement, kapittel, post).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

68b. Based on the response to Question 68, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the In-Year Reports:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

General link to all IYRs is here: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Examples:

October 2018

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manadsvi-statsregnskap-for-oktober-2018>

March 2019

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-mars-2019-1>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

69. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 69 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by program in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

General link to all IYRs is here: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Examples:

October 2018

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manadsvi-statsregnskap-for-oktober-2018>

March 2019

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-mars-2019-1>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

70. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date expenditures with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 70 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual expenditures to-date with either the enacted levels or actual expenditures for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date expenditures in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast expenditures (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

General link to all IYRs is here: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Examples:

October 2018
<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manadsvi-statsreknaskap-for-oktober-2018>
March 2019
<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-mars-2019-1>

Comment:

Comparisons are made with the enacted levels. The various column in the IYRs spreadsheets include the following:

- Amount transferred from last year
- Appropriated amount
- Total grant
- Year-to-date actual spending
- Remaining amount

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

71. Do In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 71 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual revenues by "category" – that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category.

Source:

General link to all IYRs is here: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Examples:

October 2018

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manadsvi-statsreknaskap-for-oktober-2018>

March 2019

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-mars-2019-1>

Comment:

The tax and non-tax revenues are reported separately. In the spreadsheet "Innektene til staten" one can see revenue listed by department (until line 678), but also (further down in the spreadsheet):

- lines 680 and following: Revenue from state petroleum activities
- lines 695 and following: Depreciation, provisions for investment purposes and revenues from the state's business operations in connection with new buildings, facilities, etc.
- lines 719 and following: Taxes and fees
- lines 872 and following: Interest and dividends, etc.
- lines 950 and following: National insurance
- lines 976 and following: State insurance

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

72. Do In-Year Reports present the individual sources of revenue for actual revenues collected?

GUIDELINES:

Question 72 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual collections of individual sources of revenue (such as income taxes, VAT, etc.). The question applies

to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue collected, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue that account for less than two-thirds of all revenue collected. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of actual revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

General link to all IYRs is here: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Examples:

October 2018

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manadsvi-statsrekskap-for-oktober-2018>

March 2019

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-mars-2019-1>

Comment:

In the spreadsheet "Innektene til staten," individual revenues are listed in detail.

- line 7-678): by department

- lines 680 and following: Revenue from state petroleum activities

- lines 695 and following: Depreciation, provisions for investment purposes and revenues from the state's business operations in connection with new buildings, facilities, etc.

- lines 719 and following: Taxes and fees

- lines 872 and following: Interest and dividends, etc.

- lines 950 and following: National insurance

- lines 976 and following: State insurance

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

73. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date revenues with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 73 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual revenues to-date with either the enacted levels or actual revenues for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date revenues in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast revenues (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

General link to all IYRs is here: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Examples:

October 2018

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manadsvi-statsrekskap-for-oktober-2018>

March 2019

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-mars-2019-1>

Comment:

Comparisons are made with the enacted levels.

The spreadsheet includes the following three columns:

Appropriated amount

Actual revenue collected to-date

Difference (plus/minus)

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

74. Do In-Year Reports present three estimates related to actual government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing; the total debt outstanding; and interest payments?

GUIDELINES:

Question 74 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year; and*
- *the interest payments to-date on the outstanding debt.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, In-Year Reports must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, IYRs must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

General link to all IYRs is here: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Examples:

October 2018

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manadsvis-statsregnskap-for-oktober-2018>

March 2019

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-mars-2019-1>

Comment:

Interest and debt service estimates are provided.

See line 1889 and following of the Expenditure spreadsheet, "Statsgjeld, renter og avdrag mv."

("Total Government debt, interest and installments etc"). The following information is listed:

Government debt, interest etc., subdivided into Operating expenses, Interest and commission etc. on domestic government debt, estimate appropriation; Government debt, installments and redemption, further detailed into "Deduction of domestic government debt, estimate appropriation"

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Comments: Both stock of debt, net borrowing and interest/service payments are included though presented at relevant accounting codes of the chart of accounts which is published separately.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

The issue at hand is what constitutes the In year report. The information is provided but in separate documents. This is an accessibility and transparency issue.

75. Do In-Year Reports present information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding?

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 75 focuses on the composition of government debt, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 74, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens and banks and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt to-date as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the composition of the total actual debt outstanding.

Source:

General link to all IYRs is here: <https://dfo.no/fagomrader/rapportering-til-statsregnskapet/m%C3%A5nedlige-rapporter-fra-statsregnskapet>

Examples:

October 2018

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manadsvi-statsregnskap-for-oktober-2018>

March 2019

<https://dfo.no/nyheter/manedlig-statsregnskap-for-mars-2019-1>

Comment:

The in-year reports only include actual payment transactions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the composition of the total actual debt outstanding.

Comments: The Central Bank presents quarterly in-year reports on the debt, including the core information. Source: <https://www.norges-bank.no/tema/Statsgjeld/Laneprogram-rapporter/?tab=null&newstype=0&year=0&p=10>

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well-received. As the Central Bank's reports are released online within one month of the period to which they refer, the response is revised from "c" to "a." Links for said reports: Q4 2017 (published 12 January 2018): https://static.norges-bank.no/contentassets/63e71ec8c28a4d52ab6772298fbf8b1e/kvartalsrapport_4_2017.pdf?v=01/24/2019161415&ft=.pdf Q1 2018 (published 13 April 2018): https://static.norges-bank.no/contentassets/71c2b78781c44bb6a63916d4a471fdd6/kvartalsrapport_1_2018.pdf?v=04/13/2018091154&ft=.pdf Q2 2018: (published 13 July 2018): https://static.norges-bank.no/contentassets/eafeb0bd490d4bb8cb578d4e2299d7c/kvartalsrapport_2_2018.pdf?v=01/24/2019161654&ft=.pdf Q3 2018 (published 12 October 2018): https://static.norges-bank.no/contentassets/70b4fb31af704b70ae30ea7a315ba83e/kvartalsrapport_3_2018.pdf?v=10/12/2018093847&ft=.pdf

76. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 76 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated macroeconomic forecast and explain all of the differences between the initial forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the updated forecast. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the macroeconomic forecast must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated forecasts are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the macroeconomic forecast has not been updated.

Answer:

a. Yes, the estimates for the macroeconomic forecast have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated forecasts is presented.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokument/statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2018/revidert-nasjonalbudsjett-2018/id2600404/>

Comment:

At the very beginning of the document (page 5), it is clearly stated that the macroeconomic projections are revised:

"Anslagene som nå legges frem i revidert budsjett, viser økende økonomisk vekst og lavere ledighet. Det vil påvirke bærekraften i vårt velferdssamfunn i positiv retning." ("The projections that are now presented in the revised budget show increasing economic growth and lower unemployment.")

Throughout the document, the assumptions are discussed and changes explained.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

In the "Meld. St. 2" file

(<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/c622178f8fc043de89a154fcbe125a3a/no/pdfs/stm201720180002000dddpdfs.pdf>), updated interest rate estimates can be found in Table 1.7 on page 67; updated estimates for real GDP growth, inflation and nominal GDP (which can be derived using the figures in Table 2.1 on page 12) are found in Table 1.8 on page 68. A narrative discussion of these changes can be found in pages 11-17.

77. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 77 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of expenditure for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated expenditure estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. The expenditure estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated expenditure estimates, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates is presented.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokument/statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2018/revidert-nasjonalbudsjett-2018/id2600404/>

and

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2018/dokumenter/pdf/prop85.pdf

Comment:

The mid year review of the budget is underpinned by 2 documents: The revised national budget and a proposition document that includes all the expenditure, revenue and other votes that, based on the updated estimates would need to be amended in the financial year. For 2018 the proposition is called: Prop. 85 S Tilleggsbevilgninger og omprioriteringer i statsbudsjettet 2018 and includes a justification of all the new estimates on a case by case basis sorted by Line Ministry/Sector from pages 13-116 and a summary of all new budget estimates in annex 1, pages 198 -218 for expenditure and from 2019 onwards for revenue votes. These include all updates for estimates that will need an amendment in terms of a appropriation vote. The others remain unchanged.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates is presented.

Comments: Both the Revised National Budget (PBS) and Revised Executive budget (EB) in total presents all variations.

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2019/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's comment, and to ensure consistency across survey countries, the response has been revised from "b" to "a."

78. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present expenditure estimates for the budget year underway by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 78 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2019/>

Comment:

All there expenditure classifications are provided.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Direct link to file: https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2018/dokumenter/pdf/prop85.pdf Pages 13-118 describe all individual differences between the original and updated estimates; this is summarized from pages 157-onward and the suggested appropriations are listed in annexes 1 (expenditures) and 2 (revenues).

78b. Based on the response to Question 78, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Mid-Year Review:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

<https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2019/>

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2019/dokumenter/prop114.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The researcher has provided a link to the 2019 MYR; the direct link to the 2018 MYR is:

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2018/dokumenter/pdf/prop85.pdf

79. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present expenditure estimates for the budget year underway for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 79 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokument/statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2018/revidert-nasjonalbudsjett-2018/id2600404/>

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2018/dokumenter/pdf/stm2.pdf

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2018/dokumenter/pdf/prop85.pdf

Comment:

The MYR (Prop S 85 (2017-2018)) presents expenditure by all three classifications and describe all changes in estimates between the original and the updated estimates. These are all summarized in a numerical presentation followed by a narrative that presents the justifications. The numerical presentation is listed in annex 1 for expenditure (page 198) and annex 2 for revenue (page 219). The justifications are presented on pages 13-116. In Norway the MYR is underpinned by two documents: The revised national budget

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2018/dokumenter/pdf/stm2.pdf and the revised budget proposals summarizing amendments for individual programs.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

80. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 80 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of revenue for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated revenue estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the revenue estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated revenue estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the revenue estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is presented.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokument/statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2018/revidert-nasjonalbudsjett-2018/id2600404/>

Comment:

Explanations are provided for all revenue estimates that need a revision and an amended appropriation vote. These can be found on the budget document presented together with the MYR revised national budget to underpin the MYR. The document for 2018 was:
https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Revidert_2018/dokumenter/pdf/prop85.pdf

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is presented.

Comments: Ref. <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjett-2019/>

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

The MYR 2018 includes updated revenue estimates for all revenue votes that are put forward to be adjusted and does NOT include all revenue estimates.

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-received. However, the cited link refers to the FY 2019 MYR, while the version being evaluated in the survey is the FY 2018 review. See Section 1.2 and Chapter 2 for a discussion of differences between original and updated revenue estimates. The table "Endringer etter saldert budsjett, inntekter" beginning on page 219 lists all revenue items that are subject to revision. The response is revised from "b" to "a."

81. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present revenue estimates for the budget year underway by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 81 asks whether revenue estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokument/statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2018/revidert-nasjonalbudsjett-2018/id2600404/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

82. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 82 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Mid-Year Review. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenues, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokument/statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2018/revidert-nasjonalbudsjett-2018/id2600404/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

83. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 83 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- *The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, and explain all of the differences between the initial estimates presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the estimates of borrowing and debt must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the estimates of borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of government borrowing and debt have been updated, and information on some of the differences between the original and updated estimates is presented.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokument/statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2018/revdert-nasjonalbudsjet-2018/id2600404/>

Comment:

Government borrowings are updated when relevant and votes put forward.

Revised budget includes estimates of the oil-adjusted fiscal balance and the financing of any deficit through transfers from the pension fund.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of government borrowing and debt have been updated, and information on all of the differences between the original and updated estimates is presented.

Comments: Ref. also <https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/Revidert-budsjet-2019/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

I can agree with an a) rating on this.

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-received. However, the cited link refers to the FY 2019 MYR, while the version being evaluated in the survey is the FY 2018 review. Of the six elements given in the Q83 guidelines, only net new borrowing has updated estimates clearly presented next to those from the initial 2018 budget (see Table 1.3 on page 10 of the "Tilleggsbevilgninger og omprioriteringer i statsbudsjetten 2018" document - <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/84a2c4d37d1e45e1b796ede6e39a1cfe/no/pdfs/prp201720180085000dddpdfs.pdf>). The response is therefore revised from "a" to "b," which maintains consistency across other countries.

84. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 84 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual expenditures for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all expenditures, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/statsreksneskapen-for-2017/id2599560/>

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-3-20172018/id2599119/>

Direct link to the PDF: <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

The Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditure presented along with a narrative discussion. See Section 2 of the above-cited PDF, on pages 18 and following). In the tables, for each line item, the following columns are shown:

Budsjett 2017 (budgeted amount)

Rekneskap 2017 (actual at the end of the year)

In table 2.1 (Tabell 2.1 Utgifter 2017 etter programområde), one can also see the deviation ("Avvik budsjett og rekneskap").

Note: the document "Meld. St. 3 (2017–2018) Statsrekneskapen 2017" can be downloaded in RTF, PDF and EPUB formats.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

85. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 85 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. Answer "b" if expenditure estimates are presented by two of these three classifications. Answer "c" if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

Yes all three classifications are presented of all expenditure, see page 81 and onwards:

Chapter (Map) represents the administrative classification.

Post, represents the economic classification also linked to the functional classification through a bridging table.

The first two digits of the Chapter, such as 00(01), 01(00) etc. represent the programmatic classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

85b. Based on the response to Question 85, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

Administrative classification
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/statsrekneskapen-2018/id2642902/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

86. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 86 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" if expenditures are not presented by program in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

The YER presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditure. Table 2.1. page 18 presents a summary for all the programs:
<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

87. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Question 87 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual revenues for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all revenues, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

The YER presents the difference between the enacted and the actual outcomes for all revenue, see f ex pages: 165 and onwards. The justification of changes will be found in the narratives under each Line ministry/sector in pages 13 -116.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

88. Does the Year-End Report present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 88 asks whether revenue estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by "category" – that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

See table 1.1 of the document (showing: Sale of goods and services, Income in connection with newbuildings, facilities etc, Taxes, fees and other transfers, Total income without loan transactions), as well as pages 153 and following (Tabell 2.2 Løyvingsrekneskap for staten, inntekter (tal i 1 000 kroner)), showing revenue by department.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

89. Does the Year-End Report present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 89 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Year-End Report. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

Annex 2, pages 153 and following, shows very detailed information on the individual sources of revenue under each department.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

90. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 90 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

The YER presents the difference between the enacted levels and actual government borrowing and debt for the financial year. See pages: 56.

The Ministry of Finance has delegated the operations related to debt management to the Central Bank (Norges Bank), which provides and overview of all state debt on a regular basis: https://static.norges-bank.no/contentassets/49353e1ab9054576aef15ab332835727/statsgjelden_2018_arsrapport.pdf?v=03/22/2019104526&ft=.pdf.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Note: there is no financing of the fiscal deficit by borrowing. Please see pages 56-60 of the YER.

90b. Based on the response to Question 90, check the box(es) to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, have the differences between the original forecast and the actual outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year
The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year
The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year
Whether the debt is domestic or external

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

91. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 91 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast in the Executive's Budget Proposal. Core components include estimates of the nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates, although the importance of other macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil, can vary from country to country.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

The macroeconomic discussion in the Year-End Report is very limited. The reporting normally takes place in the following years EBP.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: The developments in macroeconomic forecasts are discussed in depth in the Revised Budget that is presented to the Storting about two weeks after the YER. See the document Meld. St. 2 (2018–2019) Revidert nasjonalbudsjett 2019, chapter 2 Norsk økonomi and Annex 2 Historiske tabeller og detaljerte anslagstall. There is no change since last year in this question. Source: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld.-st.-2-20182019/id2645249/>

IBP Comment

Please see section 1.2 on page 9, as well as section 1.3.3 on pages 12-14.

91b. Based on the response to Question 91, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast have the differences between the original forecast and the outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

Nominal GDP level

Information beyond the core elements

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

The petroleum sector adjusted fiscal balance and the financing of any deficit, labour market employment rates etc are also included.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The options "Inflation rate," "Real GDP growth," and "Interest rates" have been de-selected to align with the researcher's comment and response for Q90.

92. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 92 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 49 for the nonfinancial data on inputs included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

This is reported in the following year's EBP.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

93. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 93 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 92).

Refer to Question 50 for the nonfinancial data on results included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

Performance information and all non-financial information is provided in the EBP of the following year.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

94. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 94 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 52 for assistance to the most impoverished populations in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

The year-end report focuses primarily on financial information with an overall narrative on budget and fiscal policy issues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

95. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 95 asks whether the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 33 for estimates of extra-budgetary funds in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

Net budgeted activities are included in full in the report.

See for example Section 1.7 of the document, as well as section 3 ("Utgifter og inntekter frå petroleumsverksemda – Statens pensjonsfond utland" and "Statens pensjonsfond", respectively)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

96. Is a financial statement included as part of the Year-End Report or released as a separate report?

GUIDELINES:

Question 96 asks whether a financial statement is included as part of the Year-End Report, or whether it is released as a separate report. The financial statement can include some or all of the following elements: a cash flow statement, an operating statement, a balance sheet, and notes on accounting. For purposes of responding to this question, the financial statement in question does not need to be audited. For an example of a financial statement, see the document "Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand 2013" (<https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2013-10/fsgnz-year-jun13.pdf>)

To answer "a," a financial statement must either be included in the Year-End Report or must be released as a separate report. Answer "a" applies if a financial statement is released as a separate report, even if the Year-End Report is not publicly available. Answer "b" applies if no financial statement is released either as part of the Year-End Report or as a separate report.

Answer:

a. Yes, a financial statement is part of the Year-End Report or is released as a separate report.

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cd6cf1430abc4702a7a6abb8309e0daf/nn-no/pdfs/stm201720180003000dddpdfs.pdf>

Comment:

The YER includes a financial statement in the sense that it includes a picture of all transactions in the financial year, the status of expenditure and revenue and a balance sheet with notes to explain all changes in assets and liabilities. The principles for the YER are however not presented on an accrual basis. There are no changes from the OBS 2017 on this. See section 4 of the cited document.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

97. What type of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) has the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conducted and made available to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 97 asks about the types of audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). There are three basic types of audits:

- *Financial audits are intended to determine if an entity's financial information is accurate (free from errors or fraud) and presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting and regulatory framework. See ISSAI 200 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more detail.*
- *Compliance audits look at the extent to which the relevant regulations and procedures have been followed. See ISSAI 400 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more details.*
- *Performance audits assess whether activities are adhering to the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. See ISSAI 300 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more details. ≈*

Financial and compliance audits are more common than performance audits, which usually occur only once a performance framework has been agreed upon. In some countries, the SAI's mandate limits the type of audit it can conduct.

To answer "a," the SAI must have conducted all three types of audit – financial, compliance, and performance – and made all of them available to the public. A "b" response applies if the SAI has conducted two of the three audit types, and a "c" applies if it has conducted only one type of audit. Answers "b" and "c" may be selected even if the Audit Report is not publicly available, as long as the SAI has conducted compliance or performance audits and made them available to the public. A "d" response applies if the SAI has not conducted any of the three types of audits, or has not made them available to the public.

Answer:

a. The SAI has conducted all three types of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) and made them available to the public.

Source:

<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/rapporter/>
<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/sok/?q=Årlig+revisjon+og+kontroll+budsjettåret+2017>

Comment:

The first link shows links to sector, program reports, which include performance and compliance audits.
The second link to the audit of the Year End Reports for a specific financial year, in this case 2017, is a financial and compliance audit. (<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/rapporter-mappe/no-2018-2019/arlign-revisjon-og-kontroll-budsjettaret-2017/>)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

98. What percentage of expenditures within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 98 focuses on the coverage of audits by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), asking what percentage of expenditures within the SAI's mandate has been audited.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to budgetary central government (ministries, departments, and agencies) that are within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 99 addresses audits of extra-budgetary funds.) Further, the question does not apply to "secret programs" (for example, security-related expenditures that are confidential). Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. Financial audits and compliance audits, or a hybrid of the two, can be taken into account to answer this question. Performance audits should not be considered for this question.

To answer "a," all expenditures within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if at least two-thirds, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response is appropriate when less than two-thirds of expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies when no expenditures have been audited.

Answer:

a. All expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/sok/?q=Årlig+revisjon+og+kontroll+budsjettåret+2017>

Comment:

Financial audits and compliance audit cover 100%.

Performance audits are suggested to Parliament and endorsed. This can be measured by coverage or by political and strategic importance.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

99. What percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 99 focuses on audits of extra-budgetary funds, asking what percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited. These funds, although technically outside the budget, are governmental in nature and thus should be subject to the same audit requirement as other government programs.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 98 addresses audits of budgetary central government.) Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

To answer "a," all extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies if extra-budgetary funds have not been audited.

Answer:

a. All extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/sok/?q=Årlig+revisjon+og+kontroll+budsjettåret+2017>

Comment:

All net budgeted activities are audited every year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

100. Does the annual Audit Report(s) prepared by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) include an executive summary?

GUIDELINES:

Question 100 asks whether the annual Audit Report includes an executive summary. Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. The Audit Report can be a fairly technical document, and an executive summary of the report's findings can help make it more accessible to the media and the public.

To answer "a," the Audit Report must include at least one executive summary summarizing the report's content. Answer "b" applies if the Audit Report does not include an executive summary, or the Audit Report is not made publicly available.

Answer:

a. Yes, the annual Audit Report(s) includes one or more executive summaries summarizing the report's content.

Source:

<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/globalassets/rapporter/no-2018-2019/riksrevisjonensarligerisjogkontroll2017.pdf>

Comment:

There is an overall summary and a summary per Sector and Ministry. See pages 15-25.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

101. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?

GUIDELINES:

Question 101 asks whether the executive reports to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The ultimate purpose of audits is to verify that the budget was executed in a manner consistent with existing law, and to hold the government accountable for this execution and its future improvement. The extent to which audits achieve the latter depends on whether there is adequate and timely follow-up on the recommendations provided in the SAI's audit reports.

To answer "a," the executive must report publicly on the steps it has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address audit finding, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if the executive does not report at all on its steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

a. Yes, the executive reports publicly on what steps it has taken to address audit findings.

Source:

<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/globalassets/rapporter/no-2018-2019/riksrevisjonensarligerisjogkontroll2017.pdf>

Comment:

The Executive's management response to all audit remarks are included in the published version of the audit report. The audit reports thus include the measures taken by the Executive and the SAI comments to the management responses provided together with a final audit recommendation for decision.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Yes, the executive reports publicly on most audit findings.

Comments: The Executive reports on follow up to Auditor General's findings e.g. <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/riksrevisjonens-undersokelse-av-oppfolging-av-objektsikring/id2603564/>. However not on all but on those considered of high material impact

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

The management responses are included in the Auditor General's report.

IBP Comment

IBP is in agreement with the researcher's comment and "Response to Review." The existing response of "a" is maintained.

102. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?

GUIDELINES:

Question 102 asks whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or the legislature track actions by the executive to address audit recommendations. After audit results and recommendations are discussed and validated by the legislature, the executive is normally asked to take certain actions to address the audit findings. For accountability purposes, the public needs to be informed about the status of those actions, and steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations. In addition to the executive reporting on its actions (see Question 101), the SAI and legislature – as the key oversight institutions – have a responsibility to keep the public informed by tracking the executive's progress in addressing audit recommendations.

To answer "a," the SAI or legislature must report publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the SAI or legislature reports publicly on the steps the executive has taken, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if neither the SAI nor the legislature reports on the executive's steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

a. Yes, the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit recommendations.

Source:

<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/sok/?q=oppfolging+saker>

Comment:

There are specific and targeted reports and an overall report on the follow up of audit findings.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

103. Is there an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) that conducts budget analyses for the budget formulation and/or approval process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 103 examines whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) exists that contributes budget analyses to the budget formulation and/or approval process. According to the Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions, adopted by the OECD Council in 2014, "independent fiscal institutions are publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance", and with "a forward-looking ex ante diagnostic task". In practice, they come in two main forms:

- *Parliamentary budget offices (also known as PBOs) such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States (<https://www.cbo.gov/>), the Parliamentary Budget Office in South Africa (<https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliamentary-budget-office>), and the Center for Public Finance Studies in Mexico (Centro de Estudios de las Finanzas Públicas, <http://www.cefp.gob.mx/>); or*
- *Fiscal councils such as the Office for Budget Responsibility in the United Kingdom (<https://obr.uk/>), the Fiscal Policy Council in Sweden (Finanspolitiska Rådet, <http://www.finanspolitiskaradet.com/>), and the High Council for Public Finances in France (Haut Conseil des finances*

publiques, <https://www.hcfp.fr/>).

For more information, see von Trapp et al. 'Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions and Case Studies', *OECD Journal on Budgeting* 15:2 (special issue, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/budget-15-5jm2795tv625>.

To answer "a," there must be an IFI, and its independence must be set in law. In addition, it must have sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks. Answer "b" applies if an IFI exists, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources are insufficient to carry out its tasks. Answer "c" applies if an IFI exists, but its independence is not set in law and it lacks sufficient staffing and resources. Answer "d" applies if no IFI exists.

If the answer is "a," "b," or "c," please specify in the comments the name and type of IFI that exists (e.g., parliamentary budget office or fiscal council). If the answer is "a" or "b," identify the law that guarantees its independence, and provide evidence in support of the assessment of the adequacy of its staffing and resources. This can include the IFI's total budget allocation over recent years, any press reports that discuss perceived funding shortfalls, assessments by international organizations, and/or information from interviews with staff of the IFI.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI.

Source:

<https://www.ssb.no>

Comment:

Possibly the Central Bureau of Statistics could be said to partly have such a role. However it is not independent.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, there is an IFI, its independence is set in law, and it has sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks.

Comments: The Central Bureau of Statistics do these analysis and they are autonomous, though not as an IFI but as work under its "research department". Also the Central Bank (Bank of Norway) provides independent fiscal analysis.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

I maintain the position that the Norwegian Bureau of Statistics, or the Norwegian Central Bank both carry out independent analysis but are not, as such, to be considered Independent Fiscal Institutions in line with the OECD principles.

IBP Comment

IBP is in agreement with the researcher's "Response to Review." The existing response of "d" is maintained.

104. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts?

GUIDELINES:

Question 104 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a role in producing the macroeconomic forecast (e.g., GDP growth, inflation, interest rates, etc.) and/or the fiscal forecast (revenues, expenditure, deficits, and debt), and if so, what kind of role it has. Macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasting is a typical core function across IFIs, but their role in forecasting takes several forms (von Trapp et al. 2016, p. 17 and Table 2). Some IFIs produce just a macroeconomic forecast, while others produce a complete fiscal forecast (which also typically requires an underlying macroeconomic forecast). In some cases, the fiscal forecast reflects continuation of current budget policies; such forecasts can be used by the legislature, the media, or the public to assess the projections in the executive's budget reflecting the government's policy proposals.

Some IFIs produce the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in the executive's budget. In other cases, IFIs do not prepare their own independent forecasts, but rather produce an assessment of the official estimates, or provide an opinion on, or endorsement of, the government's forecasts. Some others have no role at all in forecasting.

To answer "a," there must be an IFI that publishes both its own macroeconomic AND fiscal forecasts. Answer "b" applies if an IFI publishes its own macroeconomic OR fiscal forecast (but not both). Answer "c" applies if the IFI does not publish a macroeconomic or fiscal forecast, but rather publishes an assessment of the official forecasts produced by the executive and used in the budget. Choose option "d" if there is no IFI; or if there is an IFI that neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts for the budget.

Macroeconomic forecasts may include indicators relating to economic output and economic growth, inflation, and the labor market, amongst others. Fiscal forecasts may include estimates of revenues, expenditures, the budget balance, and debt. If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify which indicators and estimates are included in the forecasts and whether the forecast is used by government as the official forecast. If the answer is "c," please describe the nature and depth of the assessment (e.g., the length of the commentary, or whether it covers both economic and fiscal issues).

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts produced by the executive.

Source:

<https://www.ssb.no/en>

Comment:

I answered no to the existence of an IFI. However the Central Bureau of Statistics publishes own macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the IFI publishes its own macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-received. As an IFI is deemed not to currently exist in Norway, the response is changed from "e" to "d."

105. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish its own costings of new policy proposals, to assess their impact on the budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 105 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a costing function that involves assessing the budgetary implications of new policy proposals for both revenues and expenditures, and if so, what kind of role it has. Many IFIs have a costing role, but with substantial diversity in the nature and extent of this work (von Trapp et al 2016, pp. 17-18 and Table 2). Some assess virtually all new policy proposals, while others cost only a selection of new policy proposals. Others only publish opinions on, or scrutinize the costings of, budget measures produced by the executive.

To answer "a," the IFI must publish its own costings of all (or virtually all) new policy proposals. Answer "b" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only for major new policy proposals – for instance, only those proposals that cost or save above a certain amount. Answer "c" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only on a limited number of proposals. This could occur, for instance, if the IFI lacked the capacity to assess proposals dealing with certain sectors. Instead of producing a cost estimate, it can also publish an assessment of the estimates produced by the executive. Answer "d" applies if there is no IFI; or if the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals or provide an assessment of the official costings of new policy proposals.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals.

Source:

<https://www.ssb.no/en>

Comment:

The Central Bureau of Statistics does not enter into details but can sometimes engage in discussions on costings of policies and make own assessments.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the IFI publishes its own costings of major new policy proposals.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-received. As an IFI is deemed not to currently exist in Norway, the current response of "d" is maintained.

106. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 106 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Almost all IFIs interact with the legislature in some form (von Trapp et al 2016, p. 18), but the intensity of the interaction varies. This question assesses this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the IFI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the IFI staff member in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). As evidence to support your answer, you can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the IFI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; and "c" for once or twice. Answer "d" should be selected if the head or a senior staff member of the IFI never took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature, or if there is no IFI.

Answer:

d. Never, or there is no IFI.

Source:

<https://www.ssb.no/en>

Comment:

There has been a public debate in media around the Central Bureau of Statistics macro modeling. However, there is no IFI.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. Never, or there is no IFI.

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well-received. Given that there is no IFI, the response has been changed from "c" to "d."

107. Does the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 107 asks whether the legislature debates budget policies prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal. In general, prior to discussing the Executive's Budget Proposal for the coming year, the legislature should have an opportunity to review the government's broad budget priorities and fiscal parameters. Often times this information is laid out in a Pre-Budget Statement, which the executive presents to the legislature for debate. (See Questions 54-58.)

A number of countries conduct a pre-budget debate in the legislature around six months before the start of the budget year. In some cases, they adopt laws that guide the upcoming budget, for example the Budget Guidelines Law in Brazil and the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill in Sweden. A pre-budget debate can serve two main purposes: 1) to allow the executive to inform the legislature of its fiscal policy intentions by presenting updated reports on its annual and medium-term budget strategy and policy priorities; and 2) to establish "hard" multi-year fiscal targets or spending ceilings, which the government must adhere to when preparing its detailed spending estimates for the upcoming budget year.

To answer "a," the full legislature must debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Answer "b" applies if a legislative committee (but not the full legislature) debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, and approves recommendations for the budget. Option "b" also applies if, in addition to the action by the committee, the full legislature also debates budget policy in advance of the budget, but does not approve recommendations.

Answer "c" applies if the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but does not approve recommendations for the budget. Answer "d" applies if neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

In your comment, please indicate the dates of the budget debate, and if both the full legislature and a legislative committee held a debate. Note that a debate does not need to be open to the public, but a public record of the meeting or a public notice that the meeting occurred is required. In addition, please indicate whether the budget debate was focused on a Pre-Budget Statement published by the Executive. If the Executive did not publish a Pre-Budget Statement, then please indicate what served as the focus of the legislature's debate (for instance, a report released by an IFI or some other institution).

Answer:

d. No, neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:
<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/Sak/?p=73571>

Comment:
Parliament presents the procedures for the budget discussions. According to this it states clearly that the process sets out with a discussion on the overall budget policy issues.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment
The process described on the page linked by the researcher begins with the tabling of the State Budget, while Q107 is looking for a debate/discussion that takes place prior to the tabling of the EBP. Please see also: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Stortinget-og-demokratiet/Arbeidet/Budsjettarbeidet/>. The response is revised from "a" to "d."

108. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 108 examines how far in advance of the start of the budget year the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to the legislature far enough in advance to allow the legislature time to review it properly, or at least three months prior to the start of the fiscal year. (See, for instance, Principle 2.2.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>)).

For the purposes of responding to this question, if – and only if – the most recent budget submission occurred later than usual as a result of a particular event, such as an election, please use a more normal year as the basis for the response. If, however, delays have been observed for more than one budget year, and the legislature has not received the Executive's Budget Proposal in a timely manner on more than one occasion in the last three years, then "d" will be the appropriate answer.

To answer "a," the legislature must receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least three months in advance of the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature does not receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month prior to the start of the budget year, or does not receive it at all.

Answer:
b. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year.

Source:
<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/Sak/?p=73571>

Comment:
The EBP is presented to Parliament the first week of October every year. The EBP 2019 was presented on October 8th 2018.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

109. When does the legislature approve the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 109 examines when the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be approved by the legislature before the start of the fiscal year the budget proposal refers to. This gives the executive time to implement the

budget in its entirety, particularly new programs and policies.

In some countries, the expenditure and revenue estimates of the Executive's Budget Proposal are approved separately; for purposes of this question, at least the expenditure estimates must be approved. Further, approval of the budget implies approval of the full-year budget, not just a short-term continuation of spending and revenue authority.

To answer "a," the legislature must approve the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month before the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month after the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Answer:

b. The legislature approves the budget less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/Sak/?p=73571>

Comment:

The procedures are stable and the budget is approved in December in the year preceding the fiscal year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

110. Does the legislature have the authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 110 examines the legislature's power to amend—as opposed to simply accept or reject—the budget proposal presented by the executive. This question is about legal authority rather than actions the legislature takes in practice. The legislature's powers to amend the budget can vary substantially across countries.

The "a" response is appropriate only if there are no restrictions on the right of the legislature to modify the Executive's Budget Proposal, including its right to change the size of the proposed deficit or surplus. The "b" response would be appropriate if, for instance, the legislature is restricted from changing the deficit or surplus, but it still has the power to increase or decrease funding and revenue levels. The more limited "c" response would apply if, for instance, the legislature can only re-allocate spending within the totals set in the Executive's Budget Proposal or can only decrease funding levels or increase revenues. Finally, response "d" would apply if the legislature may not make any changes (or only small technical changes), or if amendments must first be approved by the executive. In these cases, the legislature is essentially only able to approve or reject the budget as a whole. If the answer is "b" or "c", please indicate the nature of the amendment powers available to the Parliament and how they are limited.

Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/fb9ca0af73724b6e968e924651b9ca07/bevilgningsreglementet_26.mai2005.pdf

<https://www.oecd.org/norway/40140177.pdf>

Comment:

In an article published in English by OECD the unlimited power of Parliament to propose and amend the budget is stated (pg. 8). This is defined in the Norwegian Constitution.

The administrative authority is regulated through a decree: the appropriations regulation also provided in Norwegian in the link above.

In the Norwegian constitution Article 75 it devolves upon the Storting: to a) enact and repeal laws, to impose tax, dues, customs and other public charges... Moreover d) to appropriate the money necessary to meet government expenditure ...clearly spelling out the authority in law to amend the Executive's budget proposal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

111. During the most recent budget approval process, did the legislature use its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 111 assesses whether any formal authority of the legislature to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal is used in practice. The responses to this question should be determined based on action by the legislature related to the Enacted Budget used in the OBS. Choose answer "a" if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal during the most recent budget approval process, and amendments were adopted (all, or at least some of them). Answer "a" also applies if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but the amendments were rejected by executive veto. Answer "b" applies if the legislature used its authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, but none of these amendments were adopted. Answer "c" applies if the legislature has the authority in law to amend the budget, but no amendments were proposed during its consideration. Answer "d" applies when the legislature does not have any authority to amend the budget (that is, Question 110 is answered "d").

If the answer is "a" or "b", please specify in the comments the number of amendments introduced by the legislature (and in the case of an "a" response, the number adopted, or if applicable, information about an executive veto) and describe their nature. For example, did the amendments result in an increase or decrease of the deficit? What were the most significant amendments to revenues and to expenditures in terms of the sums involved? How did amendments affect the composition of expenditures? If the answer is "a," please specify which amendments were adopted, and provide evidence for it.

Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, and (at least some of) its amendments were adopted.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/statsbudsjettet-bla-bok/2019/blaabok-2019.pdf>

Comment:

The so-called blue book represents the enacted budget. All amendments can be found in detail in at the Parliament website and summarized in the EB.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

112. During the last budget approval process, did a specialized budget or finance committee in the legislature examine the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 112 assesses the role of a specialized budget or finance committee during the budget approval stage. Effective committee involvement is an essential condition for legislative influence in the budget process. Specialized committees provide opportunities for individual legislators to gain relevant expertise, and to examine budgets and policy in depth. Yet, the involvement of committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures have separate committees to examine spending and tax proposals, while others have a single finance committee. Not all legislatures have a specialized budget or finance committee to examine the budget. In addition, there can be differences in the time available for the committee's analysis of the budget.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, therefore it must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget.

Response "a" requires that, in the last budget approval process, a specialized budget or finance committee had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such a committee examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if a committee examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please specify in your comment the name of the committee and the number of days it had available to examine the budget and to publish a report. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a copy of the report. Please note also if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

Answer:

a. Yes, a specialized budget or finance committee had at least one month to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2019/arbeidsplan/>

See also: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/innstillinger/stortinget/2018-2019/inns-201819-002.pdf>

Comment:

There is full disclosure of the finance committee and the sector specific standing committees roles in scrutinizing the budget proposal (EPB) prior to the enactment.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

113. During the last approval process, did legislative committees, responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.), examine spending in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the sector for which they are responsible?

GUIDELINES:

Question 113 assesses the role of committees of the legislature that are responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.) during the budget approval stage. The role of sectoral committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures do not involve them in the budget approval process, while others do. In addition, the time available for committee analysis differs.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, so therefore must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget. Response "a" requires that sector committees had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such committees examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if sectoral committees examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where sectoral committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please provide in the comments a brief overview of the committee structure and specify the number of days that sectoral committees had available to examine the budget and to publish their reports. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a sample copy of at least one of the reports. Please note if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

For purposes of responding to this question, use those sectoral committees that are best performing – that is, the ones that examine the budget the longest and that publish reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, sector committees had at least one month to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and they published reports with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2019/arbeidsplan/>

See for example recommendations from the Labor and Social committee: <https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/innstillinger/stortinget/2018-2019/inns-201819-015s.pdf>

Comment:

All standing committees are involved and scrutinize the budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

114. In the past 12 months, did a committee of the legislature examine in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period?

GUIDELINES:

Question 114 is about legislative oversight of budget execution. It assesses whether and how often a committee examined the implementation of the budget during the budget execution period (i. e., financial year) for which it was approved, and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. This question does not apply to the ex post review of implementation following the end of the budget year as part of the audit stage, which is assessed separately. Nor does it apply to the legislature's review of the budget that it may undertake as part of the process of considering a supplemental budget during the year. In-year monitoring by the legislature will be affected by the frequency that the executive publishes In-Year Reports.

To answer "a," a committee must have examined in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget at least three times during the course of the relevant budget year and published reports with findings and recommendations. Answer "b" applies where this occurred only once or twice during the year.

Exception: If a legislature is in session only twice during the year, and it examines the implementation of the budget during both sessions, then it would be eligible for an "a" response.

Choose "c" if a committee examined in-year implementation (without regard to frequency), but did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined in-year implementation.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation.

For purposes of responding to this question, if more than one committee holds in-year reviews of the budget, use the committee that is best performing – that is, the one that examines in-year implementation the most times and that publishes a report.

Answer:

a. Yes, a committee examined in-year implementation on at least three occasions during a fiscal year, and it published reports with findings and recommendations.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Statsbudsjettet/statsbudsjettet-2019/arbeidsplan/>

Comment:

The procedural information from the Parliament site provides insights into the standing committees engagement with the EPB and the Revised budget. The procedural information for other specific budget related discussions is also presented. The Finance Committee assesses the Year end report. The Constitutional committee scrutinizes the audit report of the SAI. Standing committees are also involved in the audit discussions. This implies that as a minimum there are 4 steps of the process where committees of Parliament actively engage.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

115. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units that receive explicit funding in the Enacted Budget, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 115 examines whether the executive seeks approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and whether it is legally required to do so.

In some countries, the executive has the power in law to adjust funding levels for specific appropriations during the execution of the budget. This question examines rules around shifting funds between administrative units (ministries, departments, or agencies) or whatever funding unit (or "vote") is specified in the Enacted Budget.

The conditions under which the executive may exercise its discretion to shift funds should be clearly defined in publicly available regulations or law. In addition, the amount of funds that the executive is allowed to transfer between administrative units should not be so excessive as to undermine the accountability of the executive to the legislature.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, but is not legally required to

do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before shifting funds, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to shift funds between administrative units and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. Answer "d" also applies if the executive is authorized to shift an amount considered so excessive as to undermine accountability (roughly equal to 3 percent of total budgeted expenditures). A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the shifting of funds after it has already occurred.

In the comments, please indicate any law or regulation that provides the executive with standing authority to shift funds between administrative units and, if so, describe that authority. Similarly, legislative approval for shifting funds between administrative units typically occurs with the adoption of legislation such as a supplemental budget. But if other formal procedures for gaining approval from the legislature exist, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

a. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice.

Source:

https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/fb9ca0af73724b6e968e924651b9ca07/bevilgningsreglementet_26.mai2005.pdf

Comment:

By decree there is a prior approval of the authority to incur expenditure within certain thresholds. These are presented to Parliament and endorsed ex-post. There are some specific but limited degrees of administrative discretion defined in the Appropriation regulations but in principle all amendments are presented to Parliament for approval.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

116. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue (that is, amounts higher than originally anticipated) that may become available during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 116 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if additional revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, which often happens in oil/mineral-dependent countries, and it was not accounted for in the Enacted Budget, there should be a procedure in place to ensure that the legislature approves any proposed use of these "new" funds. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might deliberately underestimate revenue in the budget proposal it submits to the legislature, in order to have additional resources to spend at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before spending any funds resulting from higher-than-expected revenues, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if prior legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to spend excess revenue and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the additional spending after it has already occurred.

Typically, legislative approval of additional spending beyond what was reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur with the adoption of a supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

a The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and it does so in practice.

Source:

https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/fb9ca0af73724b6e968e924651b9ca07/bevilgningsreglementet_26.mai2005.pdf (Sections 5, 11)

Comment:

By decree, through the Appropriation regulations, the Executive has to ask for authority to spend excess revenue on specific ear-marked non-tax revenue (fees) . The prior approval is presented as part of the EPB and is part of the EB.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

117. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls (that is, revenues lower than originally anticipated) or other reasons during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 117 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to cutting spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls or for any other reason, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if less revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, the legislature should approve or reject any proposed reductions in expenditures that are implemented as a result. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might substantially change the composition of the budget at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

Typically, legislative approval of proposals to reduce spending below the levels reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur as part of the supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before implementing spending cuts in response to revenue shortfalls or for other reasons, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive received legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to obtain legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to implement such cuts and the executive does not obtain such approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the spending cuts after they have already occurred.

Answer:

a. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below the enacted levels in response to revenue shortfalls or other reasons, and it does so in practice.

Source:

https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/fb9ca0af73724b6e968e924651b9ca07/bevilgningsreglementet_26.mai2005.pdf

Comment:

By decree in the Appropriation regulations the shortfall of revenue for revenue-financed activities will lead to a need to reduce spending accordingly. All amendments need prior approval.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

118. Did a committee of the legislature examine the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 118 is about ex post oversight following the implementation of the budget. It probes whether a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. A key issue is how soon after the SAI releases the report does it legislature review it. This question does not apply to the legislative scrutiny of in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period, which is assessed separately. Also, the question is asking specifically about the SAI's annual report on the execution of the budget, not about other audit reports that the SAI may produce. (This is the Audit Report used for responding to Question 98.)

To answer "a," a legislative committee must have examined the annual Audit Report within three months of it being released by the SAI, and then published a report (or reports) with findings and recommendations. (Note that the three-month period should only take into account time when the legislature is in session.)

Answer "b" applies when the committee examines it within six months of it being released (but more than three months), and then published a report with its findings and recommendations. Choose "c" if a committee examined the annual Audit Report more than six months after it became available or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined the annual Audit Report.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed the Audit Report, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation. Answers "a," "b," or "c" may be selected if the Audit Report is produced by the SAI but not made publicly available.

Answer:

a. Yes, a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget within three months of its availability, and it published a report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

www.statsbudsjettet.no
www.stortinget.no

Comment:

The constitutional committee and the sector specific standing committees scrutinize the SAI audit report.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Please see <https://www.stortinget.no/nn/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/Sak/?p=70067> for additional details. The Control and Constitution Committee published their report (<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/innstillinger/stortinget/2017-2018/inns-201718-115s.pdf>) on the 2016 Audit Report (<https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/rapporter-mappe/no-2017-2018/arlig-revisjon-og-kontroll-budsjettet-2016/>) on 6 February 2018 (which is the most recent such report released prior to the research cutoff date of 31 December 2018).

119. Was the process of appointing (or re-appointing) the current head of the SAI carried out in a way that ensures his or her independence?

GUIDELINES:

Question 119 concerns the appointment process of the current head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). Appointment procedures vary greatly across countries, as well as across different types of SAIs. Moreover, conventions and informal practices can greatly affect the de facto independence of the head of the SAI. While these factors make it difficult to devise a single metric against which all SAIs can be assessed with regard to this particular aspect, this question focuses on whether the legislature or judiciary must appoint or approve the appointment of the head of the SAI as a way to ensure the SAI's independence from the executive. However, if the appointment is carried out in another way that nonetheless ensures the independence of the SAI head, then that approach could be also considered.

To answer "a," the legislature or judiciary must appoint (or re-appoint) the head of the SAI, or approve the recommendation of the executive, as a way that ensure his or her independence from the executive. (As noted above, alternative approaches may also be acceptable.) Choose "b" if the appointment process does not ensure the independence of the head of the SAI, e.g. the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Irrespective of which answer you selected, provide a description of how the head of the SAI is appointed.

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be appointed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the appointment takes effect.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/english/constitutionenglish.pdf>

Comment:

The Norwegian Constitution, article 75 defines the Parliament's role in appointing 5 auditors that form a collegium that chair the SAI.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

120. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit

Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?

GUIDELINES:

Question 120 covers the manner in which the head or senior members of the SAI may be removed from office. This question draws on best practices identified in the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>), including measures intended to guarantee the office's independence from the executive.

To answer "a," the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the head of the SAI is removed. For example, the legislature or judiciary may give final consent following a certain external process, such as a criminal proceeding. So while the executive may initiate a criminal proceeding, the final consent of a member of the judiciary – or a judge – is necessary to render a verdict of wrongdoing that may lead to the removal from office of the head of the SAI. Answer "b" applies if the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before he or she is removed.

Source:

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2004-05-07-21?q=Lov%20om%20Riksrevisjonen>

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/LTI/lov/2011-01-21-3>

Comment:

This is defined in the Constitution's article 75 and in the Law of the SAI, see link above.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

121. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 121 asks who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). To ensure objective audits of government budgets, another important component of the SAI's independence from the executive is the extent to which the SAI's budget is determined by a body other than the executive, and whether the SAI has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate.

Answer "a" applies if the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate, AND either the SAI determines its own budget and then submits it to the executive (which accepts it with little or no change) or directly to the legislature, or the budget of the SAI is determined directly by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body). Answer "b" applies if the SAI's budget is determined by the executive (absent a recommendation from the SAI), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "c" applies if the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body) determines the SAI's budget, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "d" applies if the executive determines the SAI's budget, and the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Please provide evidence in support of the assessment that the funding level is or is not broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Answer:

a. The SAI determines its own budget (i.e., submits it to the executive, which accepts it with little or no change, or directly to the legislature), or the budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:

www.statsbudsjettet.no

https://www.statsbudsjettet.no/upload/Statsbudsjett_2019/dokumenter/pdf/fin.pdf

Comment:

In the supplementary budget document under the Ministry of Finance to the EBP under program category 0040, chapter 51 the budget and the justification is found. The Executive suggests on the basis of the SAI's proposal. In practice the SAI denied or at least proposes its own budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

122. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have the discretion in law to undertake those audits it may wish to?

GUIDELINES:

Question 122 explores the scope of the investigative powers of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) as prescribed in law.

Question 97 asks which of the three types of audits – financial, compliance, and performance – the SAI conducts. This question asks if the SAI is constrained by law (rather than by a lack of capacity or an inadequate budget) from undertaking any form of audit or investigating irregularities in any program or activity.

There are numerous examples of limitations. For instance, some SAIs are not permitted by their legal mandate to audit joint ventures or other public-private arrangements. Others are only allowed to undertake financial audits, precluded from conducting performance or value-for-money audits. The SAIs in some countries do not have the legal mandate to review arrangements involving oil or stabilization funds, or other types of special or extra-budgetary funds. The SAI may also not have the ability to audit commercial projects involving the public and private sector.

To answer "a," the SAI must have full discretion in law to decide which audits to undertake. Answer "b" applies if some limitations exist, but the SAI enjoys significant discretion to undertake those audits it wishes to. Answer "c" applies if the SAI has some discretion, but significant legal limitations exist. Answer "d" applies if the SAI has no power at all to choose which audits to undertake

Consulting the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>) may be useful in answering this question as its provisions serve to define the appropriate scope of a SAI's legal mandate and jurisdiction.

Answer:

a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake.

Source:

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2004-05-07-21?q=Lov%20om%20Riksrevisjonen>

Comment:

Yes, unlimited autonomy/discretion is established in a separate law on the SAI anchored in the Constitution, paragraph 75.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

123. Are the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) reviewed by an independent agency?

GUIDELINES:

Question 123 assesses whether and to what extent the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) are subject to review by an independent agency. The latter could be a peer SAI, an international organization, an academic institution with relevant expertise, or an independent domestic agency with quality assurance functions in the area of financial reporting.

To answer "a," an independent agency must conduct and publish a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis. Answer "b" applies if a review was carried out within the past five years, and published, but it is not conducted annually, but. Choose answer "c" if the SAI has an internal unit that reviews the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis, but an independent agency does not conduct such a review. Answer "d" applies if the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

If the answer is either "a" or "b," please specify the name of the independent agency and when last it conducted such a review, and provide a copy of the published report. If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the unit within the SAI that is tasked with conducting such reviews.

Answer:

c. No, but a unit within the SAI conducts a review of the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis.

Source:

No, there are only internal supervision mechanisms.

Comment:

No, there are only internal supervision mechanisms.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Although INTOSAI do conduct peer reviews of SAs - the last for Norway dating back several years.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

124. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 124 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Many SAIs interact with the legislature in some form, but the nature and intensity of the interaction varies. This question probes this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the SAI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the SAI representative in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). You can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the SAI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; "c" for once or twice, and "d" for never.

Answer:

a. Frequently (i.e., five times or more).

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/?psid=BEH#list>

Comment:

Normally in relation to the publication of performance reviews and the yearly financial audit report. The source provided is a link that gives an overview of all discussions in standing committees in Parliament over the fiscal year 2018.

The control and constitutions committee would coordinate these discussions.

There is evidence of at least five such discussions taking place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

125. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation of the annual budget (prior to the budget being tabled in parliament)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in the formulation of the annual budget, including annual pre-budget discussions. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one

mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as spending and tax policy, funding and revenue levels, and macro-fiscal planning .

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government officials. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

There are some consultations, hearings and meetings but mainly on invitation. Transparent and systematic consultations through a mechanism by which CSOs can participate is not put in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

126. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive take concrete steps to include vulnerable and under-represented parts of the population in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on the executive's efforts to seek out the views of members of the public from socially vulnerable groups and/or who are underrepresented in the process.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from vulnerable and underrepresented communities and/or civil society organizations representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as

representatives of vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

www.statsbudsjettet.no
www.regjeringen.no

Comment:

There are some consultations and meetings where the Executive consults with specific target group representatives by specific policy initiatives targeting organizations such as labour unions, associations covering themes such as unemployment, child poverty and other socially disadvantaged groups, but the mechanism is not regulated or established in any formal way. Consultations are carried out at the Executives discretion.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

127. During the budget formulation stage, which of the following key topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the formulation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget formulation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

www.regjeringen.no
www.statsbudsjettet.no

Comment:

There are so-called hearing mechanisms put in place for policy changes or prior to adopting new regulations or presenting new laws. There are also hearing and consultations in relation to investment plans within different sectors, health, communication and transport, allocations to municipalities etc. All in all the participation of associations, CSOs and the citizenry in broad is established but the procedures are not necessarily formalized or thematically predefined.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

128. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. If the executive has designated a central coordinating agency to implement participation mechanisms throughout the national budget process, researchers may consider these mechanisms. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the implementation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenue administration, public service delivery, public investment project implementation, including procurement, and the administration of social transfer schemes.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings, online, deliberative exchanges, procurement complaint mechanisms, and social monitoring and dialogue.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input on the implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include public hearings, surveys, focus groups, report cards, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to provide input on budget implementation, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured, happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", the researcher must have evidence that the government is holding participation mechanisms that have some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that all CSOs and members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples include hotlines, Facebook announcements, one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

www.statsbudsjettet.no

Comment:

The participation mechanism during budget implementation is primarily organized around the MYR.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment
To ensure consistency across survey countries, and given the lack of evidence provided, the response has been changed from "c" to "d."

129. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive take concrete steps to receive input from vulnerable and underrepresented parts of the population on the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on national government's efforts to obtain input from members of the public who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes during the implementation of the annual budget.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organizations representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives from vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the national executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

www.statsbudsjettet.no

Comment:

There are no such laws and provisions.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

130. During the implementation of the annual budget, which of the following topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Changes in macroeconomic circumstances
2. Delivery of public services
3. Collection of revenue
4. Implementation of social spending
5. Changes in deficit and debt levels
6. Implementation of public investment projects

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the implementation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with

the public during budget implementation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above – for the purpose of answering this question, “key topics” are considered to be ONLY the ones listed above. If the executive’s engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., “what issues is the public invited to engage on?”) and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

Answer “d” applies if requirements for a “c” response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a “c” response or above are not met.

Source:

www.statsbudsjettet.no

Comment:

During the MYR.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

131. When the executive engages with the public, does it provide comprehensive prior information on the process of the engagement, so that the public can participate in an informed manner?

Comprehensive information must include at least three of the following elements:

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Constraints
4. Intended outcomes
5. Process and timeline

GUIDELINES:

This question relates to the GIFT principle of “Openness,” and addresses whether the executive provides relevant information on the process of the engagement before public participation takes place, in order to help citizens engage effectively. The question addresses whether the “rules of the public engagement” are clearly spelled out, in advance and in detail, so that those members of the public who want to engage know how to do so, in terms of when they can do so, what they are expected to provide input on, by when, to whom, etc. This question does not cover the substance of the engagement, which is covered by questions 127 and 130.

Non-comprehensive information means that the government provides information that includes at least one but less than three of the elements listed above.

Purpose refers to a brief explanation of why the public engagement is being undertaken, including the executive’s objectives for its engagement with the public.

Scope refers to what is within the subject matter of the engagement as well as what is outside the subject matter of the engagement. For example, the scope may include how a current policy is administered but exclude the specifics of the policies themselves.

Constraints refers to whether there are any explicit limitations on the engagement. An example of a constraint could be that any policy changes must not cost (or forgo revenue) more than a specific amount or have no net fiscal cost.

Intended outcomes refers to what the executive hopes to achieve as a result of the engagement. Examples of intended outcomes could be revising a policy to better reflect citizen or service-user views or to improve the way in which a particular program is administered.

Process refers to the methods by which the public engagement will take place and the discrete steps in the process. For example, the process may simply be a one-off Internet-based consultation, with a summary published of public inputs and the official response. The process may involve simultaneous or overlapping steps, and may be conducted in one round or in two or more rounds of engagement.

Timeline refers to the specific dates on which the discrete steps in the process will take place, or during which they will be completed, and clear start and end dates for the overall engagement.

Answer “d” applies if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation or formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

www.statsbudjettet.no

Comment:

There is no publicly available information on these issues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

132. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used in the formulation of the annual budget, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

www.statsbudsjettet.no

www.regjeringen.no

Comment:

No such systematic feedback is provided.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

133. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive provide the public with information on how citizens' inputs have been used to assist in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received during the implementation of the annual budget, which ones are taken into account to improve budget monitoring, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received (e.g., a written transcript) from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were or were not taken into account by the executive during budget monitoring.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

www.statsbudsjettet.no
www.regjeringen.no

Comment:

There are no such feedback mechanisms. These mechanisms only apply to specific reforms, policies or areas.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

134. Are participation mechanisms incorporated into the timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Sustainability", "Timeliness" and "Complementarity" and addresses whether the executive is able to link participation mechanisms to the administrative processes that are used to create the annual budget.

Please note that "timetable" refers to a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. This document is sometimes referred to as the budget calendar and is the same document referenced in Question 53.

Answer "a" applies if the national executive establishes a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget. For answer choice "a", the timetable must be available to the public prior to the budget preparation process beginning.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not establish a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

www.statsbudsjetten.no

www.regjeringen.no

Comment:

There are no explicitly formulated moments for participation incorporated in the timetable. These are rather established practices that have not been formalized.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

135. Do one or more line ministries use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation or implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES

While questions 125 – 135 focus only on participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency currently use to allow the public to participate in the national budget process, this question asks about participation mechanisms used by line ministries to allow the public to participate in national budget processes. Thus, participation mechanisms used by the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by a line ministry or if multiple line ministries use participation mechanisms, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation and/or implementation of the annual budget.

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf

To answer "a," a line ministry must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which a line ministry seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if a line ministry has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) A line ministry consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the line ministry determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the

selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

Answer:

c. Yes, at least one line ministry uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/transport-og-kommunikasjon/nasjonal-transportplan/id2475111/>

Comment:

The national transport and communication plan under the Ministry of transport is an example of a strategic planning document that constitutes a supplementary document to the budget and where there is an organized and systematic process of public engagement and participation with a clear timetable, information provision and structured feedback.

Other line ministries such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have consultations and invite for public engagement in relation to development cooperation.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Similar for other ministries; typical for all sector ministries to present their proposals for feedback before including new programs in their budget submissions.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The researcher's "Response to Review" and the peer reviewer's comment are well noted. To our knowledge, the Transport Ministry's NTP does not provide for well-established, formal participation mechanisms with general members of the public. The response is revised from "a" to "c" to ensure cross-country consistency.

136. Does the legislature or the relevant legislative committee(s) hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the formulation of the annual budget (pre-budget and/or approval stages)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislative are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) has put in place and is using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the annual budget. This includes deliberations during the pre-budget phase (i.e., when the executive is still in the process of formulating the draft budget) and the budget discussions after the budget has been tabled to parliament and before it is approved. In the comment box, please specify during which stage of the budget cycle the legislature has put in place a public participation mechanism.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual Members of Parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

If there is more than one mechanism, please select a mechanism that best shows/reflects the legislature's efforts to incorporate citizens into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenues, policy selection, and macro-fiscal planning (please note that the issue of coverage is covered in a subsequent question).

To answer "a," the legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs; but
- There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs;
- No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, but
- The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget

Answer:

a. Yes, public hearings are held, and members of the public/CSOs testify.

Source:

<https://sok.stortinget.no/?querytext=public+hearings+2019&aid=160&sortby=&groups=&clusterby=true&l=no>

Comment:

There are systematic public hearings that take place as part of the EBP discussions in parliament. In Norway, all standing committees are involved in the EBP discussions and the public hearings take place in these. All debates are captured in the protocols/minutes form hearings that are published under procedures for all budget related debates and votes.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

For further details, see the open consultations held by the Storting's Finance Committee for the 2019 budget proposal:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Hva-skjer-pa-Stortinget/Horing/Horingsprogram/?dateid=10004214> <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Hva-skjer-pa-Stortinget/Horing/Horingsprogram/?dateid=10004215> Representatives of CSOs, trade unions, etc. can be given an opportunity to testify and ask questions in front of the committee, as detailed here: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Stortinget-og-demokratiet/Arbeidet/Horinger/> <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Stortinget-og-demokratiet/Lover-og-instruksjer/Stortingets-forretningsorden/#tjuesju> (see Section 27)

137. During the legislative deliberations on the annual budget (pre-budget or approval stages), which of the following key topics does the legislature's (or relevant legislative budget committee) engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider the range of mechanisms currently used by the legislature to promote public participation during legislative deliberations on the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics, for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the legislature's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its

deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

a. The legislature seeks input on all six topics.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/?ptid=B#list>

Comment:

Based on the links from the debates of the public hearings, all the topics are covered during the legislatures deliberations of the EBP.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Please see the links for the open consultations held by the Storting's Finance Committee on the 2019 budget proposal:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Hva-skjer-pa-Stortinget/Horing/Horningsprogram/?dateid=10004214> <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Hva-skjer-pa-Stortinget/Horing/Horningsprogram/?dateid=10004215>

138. Does the legislature provide feedback to the public on how citizens' inputs have been used during legislative deliberations on the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the legislature provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received and how inputs were used during legislative deliberations (please note that these deliberations can refer to the pre-budget and approval phases). By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the legislature.

Answer "a" applies when the legislature provides a written document with:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and
- A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).

Answer "b" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and
- A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used in legislative deliberations on the annual budget (please note that these deliberations refer to the pre-budget and approval phases).

Answer "c" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) or
- A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

c. Yes, the legislature provides a written record which includes either the list of the inputs received or a report or summary on how they were used.

Source:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/?ptid=B#list>

Comment:

The record of all discussions and input from the public/citizens. A response to how these have been used is not given but can be seen in the votes itself and the commentaries to the votes. It is either a c or a d. For consistency with the previous exercise I have chosen a d.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Please see the links for the open consultations held by the Storting's Finance Committee on the 2019 budget proposal below. Video recordings of the session are provided, but to our knowledge there are no written minutes, only programs/schedules of the hearings:

<https://www.stortinget.no/no/Hva-skjer-pa-Stortinget/Horing/Horningsprogram/?dateid=10004214> <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Hva-skjer-pa-Stortinget/Horing/Horningsprogram/?dateid=10004215> To maintain consistency across survey countries, the response has been revised from "d" to "c."

139. Does the legislature hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislative are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

A key constitutional role of the legislature in almost all countries is to oversee the government's management of public resources. While the Supreme Audit Institution is responsible for checking the government's accounts and publishing the outcome of their audits, for accountability purposes it is essential that the legislature reviews and scrutinizes those reports, and checks on whether the executive is taking the appropriate corrective actions based on the Supreme Audit Institution's recommendations.

Holding public hearings to review audit findings allows the public to learn more about how the government has managed its resources for the budget years that have ended, and demand accountability in case of mismanagement and irregularities. Reviewing and discussing those reports in public is therefore a key responsibility of a legislature.

Please note that by "Audit Report" we refer to the same audit report assessed in the transparency section of this Survey, i.e., one of the eight key budget documents that all governments (in this case, the Supreme Audit Institution) must produce, according to best practice.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) have put in place and using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the Audit Report.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual members of parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

To answer "a," the national legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *No testimony is allowed from the public; BUT*
- *There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.*

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *No testimony is allowed from the public;*
- *No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, BUT*
- *The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the Audit Report.

Answer:

c. Yes, public hearings on the Audit Report are held. No testimony from the public is provided during the hearings and there are no other mechanisms through which public contributions are received, but the legislature invites specific individuals or groups to testify or provide input (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

www.stortinget.no

Comment:

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) calls in representatives of the public impacted by SAI audit findings in relevant cases. The controls and constitution committee too. it is an established procedure.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Per follow-up communication with the peer reviewer, the following link displays a list of Control and Constitution Committee cases in FY 2018 with open hearings relating to SAI activities: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Hva-skjer-pa-Stortinget/Horing/?coid=KONTROLL&y=2018>

140. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program (for example, by bringing ideas on agencies, programs, or projects that could be audited)?

GUIDELINES:

This question assesses whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has established mechanisms through which the public can provide suggestions on issues/topics to be included in its audit program. When deciding its audit agenda, the SAI may undertake audits for a sample of agencies, projects, and programs in the country; and such a selection could be based on complaints and suggestions made by members of the public. To receive such suggestions, the SAI may create formal mechanisms, like setting up a website, hotline, or office (or assigning staff to liaise with the public).

Answer:

a. Yes, the SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in its audit program.

Source:

<https://rr.onctg.com/cng/enterWorkflow.action?repositoryName=Riksrevisjonen&urlSuffix=Tipskanalen&selectedLanguage=eng&cngSessionId=22132a9597f446f6a6f06db75f582641>

Comment:

There is a whistleblower channel through which citizens can report to the SAI.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: <https://www.riksrevisjonen.no/kontakt-oss/>, "Tips oss"

141. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used to determine its audit program?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the Supreme Audit Institution provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used to determine the Supreme Audit Institution's audit program. By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the Supreme Audit Institution.

Answer "a" applies when the Supreme Audit Institution provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used to determine the SAI's annual audit program.*

Answer "c" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggests issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

www.riksrevisjonen.no

Comment:

No explicit feedback to the public is provided on how citizens's input have been used to determine the audit program. On a specific case to case basis the reports contain a discussion of input from citizens to specific cases under audit.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Though it is mentioned in the Annual Audit Reports if they were given guidance on risk areas by "the public" (most often an employee in the auditee).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

142. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations (as respondents, witnesses, etc.)?

GUIDELINES:

This question mirrors question 140, but instead of covering public assistance in formulating the SAI's audit program, it focuses on whether the Supreme Audit Institution has established mechanisms through which the public can participate in audit investigations. In addition to seeking public input to determine its audit agenda, the SAI may wish to provide formal opportunities for the public and civil society organizations to participate in the actual audit investigations, as witnesses or respondents.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

www.riksrevisjonen.no

Comment:

As far as I know there are no systematic open access to contribute, but on specific issues the public and CSOs are invited to participate. Interviews are carried out when a whistleblower reports and an investigation is initiated.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree