

International Budget Partnership
OPEN BUDGET QUESTIONNAIRE
United Kingdom, September 2009

International Budget Partnership
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
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Section One: The Availability of Budget Documents

Table 1. Budget Year of Documents Used in Completing the Questionnaire

Budget Documents Used in Completing the Questionnaire	
	Budget Year Used
Pre-Budget Statement	2009-2010
Budget Summary	2009-2010
Executive's Budget Proposal	2009-2010
Supporting Budget Documents	2009-2010
Citizens Budget	2009-2010
Enacted Budget	2009-2010
In-Year Reports	2009-2010
Mid-Year Report	2008-2009
Year-End Report	2008-2009
Audit Report	2007-2008

Table 2. Key Budget Documents Used: Full Titles and Internet Links

Budget Document	Full Title, Date, and Internet Link
Pre-Budget Statement	Pre-Budget Report 2008, Chapters 1-7 24 November 2008 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_repindex.htm
Budget Summary	Budget Microsite 2009 22 April 2009 http://budget.treasury.gov.uk/
Executive’s Budget Proposal	Budget 2009 22 April 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_repindex.htm
Budget Document One in Support of the Executive’s Budget Proposal	Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report (EFSR) from Budget 2009 22 April 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_repindex.htm
Budget Document Two in Support of the Executive’s Budget Proposal	Financial Statement and Budget Report (FSBR) from Budget 2009 22 April 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_repindex.htm
Budget Document Three in Support of the Executive’s Budget Proposal	<p>A wide and varying range of additional documents are typically tabled. In 2009, these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernising landfill tax legislation Debt and reserves management report 2009-2010 Building a low carbon economy: implementing the Climate Change Act 2008 National Audit Office Audit of Assumptions for Budget 2009 Budget 2009: Budget notes Budget 2009: Data sources Budget 2009: The economy and public finances: supplementary material Budget 2009: Impact Assessments Budget 2009: Notes on resolutions <p>22 April 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_docsindex.htm</p> <p>The 2008 Long-term public finance report: an analysis of fiscal sustainability 12 March 2008 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud08_longterm.htm</p>
Citizens Budget	“What the budget means for your region” section on Budget Microsite 22 April 2009 http://budget.treasury.gov.uk/regions.htm

Enacted Budget	<p>Spending: Appropriation (No. 2) Act 2009 21 July 2009 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2009/ukpga_20090009_en_1#l1g1</p> <p>Revenue: Finance Act 2009 21 July 2009 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2009/ukpga_20090010_en_1</p>
In-Year Reports	<p>Public Sector Finances July 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/psf.pdf</p>
Mid-Year Review	<p>Pre-Budget Report 2008, Annex A: The Economy, and Annex B: The Public Finances 24 November 2008 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_reindex.htm</p>
Year-End Report	<p>Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper 2008-09 (provisional outturn) July 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa09.htm</p> <p>Receipts (and broad spending aggregates): End of Year Fiscal Report 2008 (published alongside pre-budget report since 2002) 24 November 2008 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_fiscalreport.htm</p>
Audit Report	<p>Financial reporting and financial management: General report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for 2008 27 February 2009 http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/general_report_for_2008.aspx</p> <p>Value for Money (VFM) Reports as well as Financial Reports and Reports on Accountants are published throughout the year and have various dates: http://www.nao.org.uk/publications.aspx</p>

Other Documents	<p>Annual spending plans and comparative information for prior years are published in a series of documents:</p> <p>2009 Departmental Reports (published by each department, for an example see below).</p> <p>Main Supply Estimates 2009-10 18 June 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/main_supply_estimates_0910.htm</p> <p>Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2009 16 July 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa09.htm</p> <p>Supplementary Budgetary Information 2009-10 18 June 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_estimates_sbi09-10.htm</p> <p>Other relevant information provided by HM Treasury includes:</p> <p>Debt and Reserves Management Report 2009-10 April 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_drmr_2034.pdf</p> <p>Public Finances Databank http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_statistics.htm</p> <p>HM Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 20 July 2009 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/annual_report_2009_full.pdf</p> <p>The National Asset Register http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_investment_nar_2007_index.htm</p> <p>Long-term Public Finance Report 2008 March 2008 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08_longterm_586.pdf</p> <p>2007 Comprehensive Spending Review http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr07_repindex.htm</p> <p>HM Treasury Supplementary Estimates http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_estimates_supplementary.htm</p>
Relevant Ministries & Departments	<p>Department for International Development, Departmental Report 2009 16 July 2009 http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Annual-report/Annual-Report-2009/Chapter 5 Analysis of Departmental Expenditure http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/vol1-chap5.pdf</p> <p>Department for Work and Pensions, Departmental Report 2009 30 June 2009 http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/dr09.shtml</p> <p>Office of National Statistics, Monthly Financial Statistics http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Finstats_Sept09.pdf</p>

National Audit Office, Audit of Assumptions for Budget 2009
 22 April 2009
http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/audit_of_assumptions_for_2009.aspx

The Department for Communities and Local Government, Local Government Finance Report (England) 2009/10
 21 January 2009
<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0809/hc01/0150/0150.pdf>

Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Departmental Report 2009
 16 July 2009
http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/DCMS_Annual_Report_2009.rtf

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09
 20 July 2009
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file52275.pdf>

Department for International Development, Autumn Performance Report 2008
 December 2008
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/aut-perf-report-08.pdf>

HM Revenue and Customs, Rates and Allowances
www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/

HM Revenue and Customs, Income Tax Statistics and Distribution
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Defence Select Committee Report on Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2009-10
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmdfence/773/773.pdf>

UK Debt Management Office, Quarterly Reviews
http://dmo.gov.uk/index.aspx?page=publications/Quarterly_Reviews

Ordnance Survey, Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09
 8 July 2009
<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/aboutus/reports/annualreport/>

National Audit Office, Annual Report 2009
 4 June 2009
http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/nao_annual_report_2009.aspx

Royal Mint, Annual Report 2009
 18 June 2009
<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0809/hc05/0570/0570.pdf>

Defence Support Group, Trading Fund Annual Report 2009
 7 July 2009
<http://www.dsg.mod.uk/accounts/DSGAccounts2008-2009.pdf>

National Audit Office, Providing Anti Air Warfare Capability: the Type 45 destroyer
 13 March 2009
http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/the_type_45_destroyer.aspx

National Audit Office, Thames House and Vauxhall Cross
 18 February 2000
http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/9900/thames_house_-_vauxhall_cross.aspx

Table 3. Distribution of Documents Related to the Executive’s Budget Proposal

DISTRIBUTION OF BUDGET DOCUMENTS						
	Pre-budget	Executive’s Budget Proposal				Citizens budget
		Main document	Budget summary*	Supporting Document 1	Supporting Document 2	
A. Not produced, even for internal purposes						
B. Produced for internal purposes, but not available to the public						
C. Produced and available to the public, but only on request						
D. Produced and distributed to the public (for example, in libraries, posted on the Internet.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>For budget reports that are produced and distributed to the public, what steps does the executive take to distribute these reports and to promote interest in them?</i>						
	Pre-budget	Executive’s Budget Proposal				Citizens budget
		Main document	Budget summary*	Supporting Document 1	Supporting Document 2	
1. The release date is known at least one month in advance	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. Advance notification of release is sent to users, media	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3. Released to public same day as official release to media	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. Available on the Internet free of charge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5. Free print copies available, limited distribution	No	No	No	No	No	No
6. Free print copies available, mass distribution	No	No	No	No	No	No
7. Readily available outside capital and/or big cities ⁺	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8. Written in more than one language	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9. News conference is held to discuss release	No	No	No	No	No	No

*A budget summary should be a stand-alone document, which could include a budget speech or a separately published executive summary.

⁺Mark “Yes” if access by mail order or by Internet, if Internet service is readily available outside the capital and/or big cities.

Table 4. Distribution of the Enacted Budget and Other Reports

DISTRIBUTION OF ENACTED BUDGET AND OTHER REPORTS					
	Enacted budget	In-year reports	Mid-year review	Year-end report	Audit report
A. Not produced, even for internal purposes					
B. Produced for internal purposes, but not available to the public					
C. Produced and available to the public, but only on request					
D. Produced and distributed to the public (for example, in libraries, posted on the Internet.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>For budget reports that are produced and distributed to the public, what steps does the executive take to distribute these reports and to promote interest in them?</i>					
	Enacted budget	In-year reports	Mid-year review	Year-end report	Audit report
1. The release date is known at least one month in advance	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
2. Advance notification of release sent to users, media	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3. Released to public same day as official release to media	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. Available on the Internet free of charge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5. Free print copies available, limited distribution	No	No	No	No	Yes
6. Free print copies available, mass distribution	No	No	No	No	No
7. Readily available outside capital/big cities ⁺	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8. Written in more than one language	No	No	Yes	No	No
9. News conference is held to discuss release	No	No	No	No	No

⁺Mark "Yes" if access is available by mail order or by Internet, if Internet service is readily available outside the capital and/or big cities.

Section Two: The Executive's Budget Proposal

Notes on abbreviations:

BY = budget year (year for which the budget proposals are being made)

BY+1 = one year beyond the budget year

BY-1 = one year before the budget year

Note 1: The Open Budget Survey research process was carried out over a 12-month period and the final version of the Open Budget Questionnaires reflect decisions made after multiple rounds of discussions between Survey researchers, peer reviewers, and the International Budget Partnership (IBP) (in several countries these decisions also considered comments received from governments). When peer reviewers or governments agreed with the answers provided by researchers, they often provided no comment. Thus for many questions, the section in the questionnaire that should contain peer reviewer comments is left blank. However, if the government did not provide any comments to a question (because it did not dispute the answer), the section within the questionnaire that is meant to reflect government comments specifies the answer that the government agreed with (by default).

Since the IBP continued its discussions with the researchers even after receiving peer reviewer and government comments, for some questions these discussions resulted in a mutual decision to change the answers, even if the peer reviewers and governments agreed with the original answer provided by the researcher. Such changes may have happened as a result of:

1. A more consistent application of the Survey methodology;
2. New information identified by the researcher or by IBP that had a bearing on the answer for a particular question; or
3. Decisions made to ensure cross-country comparability of answers.

For more information on these changes for any question please write to info@internationalbudget.org.

The Executive's Budget Proposal	
Estimates for the Budget Year and Beyond	
<p>1. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All expenditures are classified by administrative unit. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit, but some small units are not shown separately. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit, but a significant number of units are not shown separately. No expenditures classified by administrative unit are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, Financial Statement and Budget Report (FSBR) Table C11, Departmental Expenditure Limits (administrative units within broad departmental groupings): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf Main Supply Estimates 2009-2010 (individual administrative units are shown): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/main_supply_estimates_0910.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>2. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by functional classification?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All expenditures are classified by functional classification, and the categorization is compatible with international standards. All expenditures are classified by functional classification, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by function. No expenditures classified by function are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report (ESFR) Chart 1.1., Government Spending by Function: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapter1_237.pdf Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis (PESA) 2009, Chapters 4 & 5: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_180609.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>3. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by economic classification?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All expenditures are classified by economic classification, and the categorization is compatible with international standards. b. All expenditures are classified by economic classification, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards. c. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by economic classification. d. No expenditures classified by economic classification are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009 the economy and public finances - supplementary material, Table 2.7 “General Government Transactions by Economic Category” http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf This table was previously located in the FSBR. Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis (PESA) 2009, Chapters 4 & 5: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_180609.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>4. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program-level data are presented for all expenditures. b. Program-level data are presented for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. c. Program-level data are presented, but for less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. No program-level data are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Main Supply Estimates contain program-level data: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/main_supply_estimates_0910.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>5. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of expenditure presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year)?</p> <p>a. Yes, multi-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are presented. b. No, multi-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, FSBR Table C4, Current and Capital Budgets: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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6. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for expenditure estimates that cover a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?
- Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented for all individual programs, and for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative).
 - Yes, multi-year estimates are presented for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative), but only for some individual programs.
 - Yes, multi-year estimates are presented, but only for a portion of one or more of the expenditure classifications (such as some functions, or some administrative units) and/or for only some individual programs.
 - No, multi-year estimates are presented for aggregate expenditure only, or they are not presented at all.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Departmental Annual Reports that detail spending plans are tabled with the Main Estimates. The number of outer years varies, depending on when the last spending review was carried out (this is the UK's system for allocating resources over the medium-term, which takes place every 2 or 3 years and is periodic and not rolling). For example, the 2008 Annual Report of the Department for International Development included figures for the budget year plus two further years (Annex 2) as the Comprehensive Spending Review had been published in 2007, but the 2009 Annual Report only had figures for one year beyond the budget year (Chapter 5).

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2008/Annexes-bcov.pdf>

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/vol1-chap5.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

d

<p>7. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All sources of tax revenue are identified individually. b. Sources of tax revenue amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, tax revenues are identified individually. c. Sources of tax revenue amounting to less than two-thirds of all tax revenues are identified individually. d. No sources of tax revenue are identified individually. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, FSBR Table C6, Current Receipts: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>8. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of goods and services) for the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All sources of non-tax revenue are identified individually. b. Sources of non-tax revenue amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, non-tax revenues are identified individually. c. Sources of non-tax revenues amounting to less than two-thirds of all non-tax revenue are identified individually. d. No sources of non-tax revenues are identified individually. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, FSBR Table C6 Current Receipts contains limited data on non-tax revenue, but the notes to each of the Main Supply Estimates contain a breakdown of departmental receipts: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/main_supply_estimates_0910.htm Specific example - Notes to Main Supply Estimates for Department for Children, Schools and Families: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_me01_dcsf_1st.pdf p8</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>9. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year)?</p> <p>a. Yes, multi-year estimates of aggregate revenue are presented. b. No, multi-year estimates of aggregate revenue are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, FSBR Table C7, Current Receipts as a Proportion of GDP: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
<p>10. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for revenue estimates that cover a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?</p> <p>a. Yes, multi-year revenue estimates are presented for individual sources of revenue, and by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax). b. Yes, multi-year estimates are presented by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax), but only for some individual sources of revenue. c. Yes, multi-year estimates are presented, but only for some individual sources of revenue. d. No, multi-year estimates are presented for aggregate revenue only, or they are not presented at all. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, FSBR Table C7, Current Receipts as a Proportion of GDP: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>

<p>11. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present data on the total government debt outstanding for the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the data reflect the outstanding debt both at the start of the budget year and at the end of the budget year (and thereby reflect the net borrowing requirement of the budget). b. Yes, the data reflect the outstanding debt at the end of the budget year. c. Yes, the data reflect the outstanding debt at the start of the budget year. d. No, data on the outstanding debt are not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, FSBR Table C3, Fiscal Balances Compared with Budget 2008 and the 2008 Pre-Budget Report: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>12. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present interest payments on the debt for the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, interest payments on the debt are presented. b. No, interest payments on the debt are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Debt and Reserves Management Report 2009-10, p8: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_drmr_2034.pdf</p> <p>Budget 2009: The economy and public finances: supplementary material Table 2.8 “Public sector transactions by sub-sector and economic category” (entry of “Interest and dividends paid” of central government): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf This table was previously located in the FSBR.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>13. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of government debt (such as interest rates on the debt, maturity profile of the debt, currency denomination of the debt, or whether it is domestic and external debt) for the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Yes, extensive information related to the composition of government debt is presented.b. Yes, key additional information is presented, but some details are excluded.c. Yes, some additional information is presented, but it lacks important details.d. No, additional information related to the composition of government debt is not presented.e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Debt and Reserves Management Report 2009-10: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_drmr_2034.pdf The monthly Financial Statistics released by the Office for National Statistics contain additional details on the currency denomination of the debt (table 1.2H on UK central government and other public sector foreign currency debt; table 1.2I.A on currency breakdown of UK central government foreign currency assets & liabilities): http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Finstats_Sept09.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>14. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive discussion of the macroeconomic forecast is presented, and key assumptions (such as inflation, real GDP growth, unemployment rate, and interest rates) are stated explicitly. b. Yes, the macroeconomic forecast is discussed and most of the key assumptions are stated explicitly, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, there is some discussion of the macroeconomic forecast (and/or the presentation of key assumptions), but it lacks important details. d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, EFSR Chapter 2: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapter2_514.pdf Budget 2009, FSR Table C1, Box C1: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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15. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget (including expenditures, revenues, and debt)?
- Yes, extensive information on the impact of macroeconomic assumptions on the budget is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
 - Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of the major macroeconomic assumptions, but some details are excluded.
 - Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
 - No, information on the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on the budget is not presented.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

There is no adequate analysis of the sensitivity of the forecasts to changes in their underlying assumptions, only a discussion of the level of uncertainty surrounding the forecasts (E.g. Budget 2009, EFSR p18). The chart with different surplus scenarios cited in previous years is also no longer presented, justifying a downgrade to a "d."

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapter2_514.pdf

There is, however, a mechanism to ensure or strengthen the integrity of the assumptions made in the budgets. Sections 156 and 157 of the Finance Act 1998 provide for the Comptroller and Auditor General to examine and report on conventions and assumptions underlying the Treasury's fiscal projections that are submitted by the Treasury for examination.

Audit of Assumptions for Budget 2009, 22 April 2009:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/audit_of_assumptions_for_2009.aspx

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "c"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "d." The question asks about the sensitivity of forecasts to changes in the assumptions underlying the forecasts, whereas this is just a discussion of the level of uncertainty surrounding the forecast and an audit of the assumptions underlying the public finance forecasts. There is nothing about the sensitivity of the forecast to changes in the assumptions.

Researcher Response: We agree with Peer Reviewer Two, and have altered our response accordingly.

IBP Comment: Based on a review of comments, IBP editors chose answer "d."

d

<p>16. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how policy proposals in the budget, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on the impact of policy proposals on expenditures is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of key policy proposals on expenditures, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on the impact of policy proposals on expenditures is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009 (chapter A of the FSB) discusses budget policy decisions and gives their estimated effect on government revenues and spending: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud09_chaptera_307.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>17. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how policy proposals in the budget, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on the impact of policy proposals on revenues is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of key policy proposals on revenues, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on the impact of policy proposals on revenues is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009 (chapter A of the FSB): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud09_chaptera_307.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

Estimates for Years Prior to the Budget Year	
<p>18. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All expenditures are classified by administrative unit for BY-1. b. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit for BY-1, but some small units are not shown separately. c. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit for BY-1, but a significant number of units are not shown separately. d. No expenditures classified by administrative unit are presented for BY-1. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Main Supply Estimates 2009-2010 (individual administrative units displayed): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/main_supply_estimates_0910.htm</p> <p>PESA 2009, Chapters 5 & 6: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_180609.pdf</p> <p>Departmental Annual Reports contain further breakdown of past spending, e.g. Department for International Development Annual Report 2009, Chapter 5: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/vol1-chap5.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>19. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) that are classified by functional classification?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All expenditures are classified by functional classification for BY-1, and the categorization is compatible with international standards. b. All expenditures are classified by functional classification for BY-1, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards. c. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by function for BY-1. d. No expenditures classified by function are presented for BY-1. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2009, esp. chapters 4 and 5: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_180609.pdf Page15 of this document states that this classification is in accordance with United Nations’ Classification of the Functions of Government Standards.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>20. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) that are classified by economic classification?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All expenditures are classified by economic classification for BY-1, and the categorization is compatible with international standards. b. All expenditures are classified by economic classification for BY-1, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards. c. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by economic classification for BY-1. d. No expenditures classified by economic classification are presented for BY-1. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2009, chapter 2, especially p44: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_180609.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>21. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program-level expenditure data are presented for all expenditures for BY-1. b. Program-level expenditure data are presented for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures for BY-1. c. Program-level expenditure data are presented, but for less than two-thirds of expenditures for BY-1. d. No program-level expenditure data are presented for BY-1. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Departmental Annual Reports present program figures several years back, e.g. Department for International Development Annual Report 2009, Chapter 5: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/vol1-chap5.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>22. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, how many months of actual data are reflected in the expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect six or more months of actual expenditure. b. All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original enacted levels, but reflect less than six months of actual expenditure. c. Some BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditure. d. The BY-1 estimates have not been updated from the original enacted levels, or no BY-1 estimates are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The entire previous year's forecast outturns are presented in the Main Supply Estimates. A footnote in the Introduction to the Main Supply Estimates 2009-10 (p20) states that: "Figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are the best available estimates of the outturn and provision in those years adjusted for transfer, classification and machinery of government changes to reflect the 2009-10 Estimate structure." http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_main_supply_front.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>23. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of expenditure presented for years that precede the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Yes, such prior-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are presented.b. No, such prior-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are not presented.c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2009, table 1.1 contains estimated outturn for the preceding year and outturn data for 5 prior years: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_180609.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>24. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for expenditure estimates that cover years preceding the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, such prior-year expenditure estimates are presented for all individual programs, and for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative). Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative), but only for some individual programs. Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented, but only for a portion of one or more of the expenditure classifications (such as some functions, or some administrative units) and/or for only some individual programs. No, such prior-year estimates are presented for aggregate expenditure only, or they are not presented at all. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2009: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_180609.pdf There is additional detail in the Departmental Annual Reports, e.g. Department for International Development Annual Report 2009, Chapter 5: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/vol1-chap5.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>25. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2). Three years prior to the budget year (BY-3). Before BY-3. No actual data for all expenditures are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Main Supply Estimates: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/main_supply_estimates_0910.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>26. Are the expenditure estimates for the years prior to the budget year adjusted, as needed, to be comparable with the budget-year estimates in terms of classification and presentation?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, prior-year data are always adjusted to be comparable to the budget year data. Yes, in most cases, prior-year data are adjusted to be comparable. Yes, in some cases, prior-year data are adjusted to be comparable, but significant deviations between prior-year and budget-year classifications exist. No, prior-year data are not adjusted to be comparable, or no prior-year estimates are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> A footnote in the Introduction to the Main Supply Estimates 2009-10 (p20) states that: "Figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are the best available estimates of the outturn and provision in those years adjusted for transfer, classification and machinery of government changes to reflect the 2009-10 Estimate structure." http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_main_supply_front.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>27. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1. Tax revenues amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, tax revenue for BY-1 are identified individually. Tax revenues amounting to less than two-thirds of all tax revenues for BY-1 are identified individually. No tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, FSB Table C6, Current Receipts: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>28. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of goods and services) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All non-tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1. Non-tax revenues amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, non-tax revenue for BY-1 are identified individually. Non-tax revenues amounting to less than two-thirds of all non-tax revenues for BY-1 are identified individually. No non-tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, FSBR Table C6 Current Receipts contains limited data on non-tax revenue for BY-1 and BY-2, but the Notes to the Main Supply Estimates contain a breakdown of departmental receipts for BY-1 and BY-2: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/main_supply_estimates_0910.htm Specific example - Notes to Main Supply Estimates for Department for Children, Schools and Families: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_me01_dcsf_1st.pdf p8</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>29. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, how many months of actual data are reflected in the revenues estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original estimates to reflect six or more months of actual revenue collections. All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original estimates, but reflect less than six months of actual revenue collections. Some BY-1 estimates have not been updated from the original estimates to reflect actual revenue collections. The BY-1 estimates have not been updated from the original estimates or no BY-1 estimates are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The revenue estimates are presented in Budget 2009, FSBR Table C6 Current Receipts: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>30. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of revenues presented for years that precede the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?</p> <p>a. Yes, such prior-year estimates of aggregate revenue are presented. b. No, such prior-year estimates of aggregate revenue are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Historical data are available in the Public Finances Databank, sheet C1: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_statistics.htm Budget 2009 (FSBR Table C6) details current receipts up to BY-2 but not prior years: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>31. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for revenue estimates that cover years preceding the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?</p> <p>a. Yes, such prior-year revenue estimates are presented for individual sources of revenue, and by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax). b. Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax), but only for some individual sources of revenue. c. Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented, but only for some individual sources of revenue. d. No, such prior-year estimates are presented for aggregate revenue only, or they are not presented at all. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Historical data are available in the Public Finances Databank: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_statistics.htm Budget 2009 (FSBR Table C6) details current receipts up to BY-2 but not prior years: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>32. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2). b. Three years prior to the budget year (BY-3). c. Before BY-3. d. No actual data for all revenues are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009, FSBR Table C6, Current Receipts: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
<p>33. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the government debt for the year preceding the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information is presented on the level and composition of government debt for the year preceding the budget year. b. Yes, information on the level of debt is presented, but some important details about the composition of the debt are excluded. c. Yes, but only information on the level of debt is presented. d. No, information related to the government debt for BY-1 is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Debt and Reserves Management Report 2009-10, Chapter 2: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_drmr_2034.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>

<p>34. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2). b. Three years prior to the budget year (BY-3). c. Before BY-3. d. No actual data for government debt are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Debt and Reserves Management Report 2009-10 was published in April 2009 and reflects the most recent available data, i.e. March 2009: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/D/B/bud07_debt_407.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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Comprehensiveness	
<p>35. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on extra-budgetary funds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on extra-budgetary funds is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key extra-budgetary funds, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on extra-budgetary funds is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> There are funds that operate on the basis of enabling legislation, notably the National Insurance Fund. Its gross costs of administration are voted by the Parliament, and are then offset by appropriations in aid from the Fund. Expenditure from the Fund is subject to Treasury control. The Government Actuary reports to Parliament annually on the financial implications of changes to National Insurance contribution and benefit rates. These reports include short-term projections of the financial position of the National Insurance Fund. The Government Actuary is also required to review the operation of the Fund every five years and to examine the long-term level at which it stands in relation to likely demands for payments from it: http://www.gad.gov.uk/services/Social%20Security/UK_social_security.html The administration of the National Insurance Fund is also covered in the 2009-10 Main Estimates for the Department for Work and Pensions: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_me37_dwp_1st.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>36. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on intergovernmental transfers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on intergovernmental transfers is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key intergovernmental transfers, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on intergovernmental transfers is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Grants to the Welsh Consolidated Fund and the Scottish Consolidated Fund, which finance the two main devolved regional authorities in Britain, are made from central government through the Main Supply Estimates of the Ministry of Justice (which has taken over the responsibilities of the Department for Constitutional Affairs): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_me13_moj_1st.pdf Various other Departmental Estimates detail local government support as applicable. In addition, the Department for Communities and Local Government publishes The Local Government Finance Report (England) 2009/10: http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0809/hc01/0150/0150.pdf There is additional information on the Local Government Finance website: http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>37. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on transfers to public corporations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on transfers to public corporations is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key transfers to public corporations, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on transfers to public corporations is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Any grants from Departments to public corporations are specified in the Estimates, and annual Departmental Reports provide further details including narrative discussion. For example, items for the BBC are reflected in the Main Supply Estimates for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_me36_dcms_1st.pdf Departmental Report contains further discussion: http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/DCMS_Annual_Report_2009.rtf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>38. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on quasi-fiscal activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on quasi-fiscal activities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and, where possible, quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key quasi-fiscal activities, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on quasi-fiscal activities is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> There is no explicit information on quasi-fiscal activities in the budget documentation. In 1999 the International Monetary Fund attested that in the UK “quasi-fiscal activities are not significant” (IMF 1999, para. 10). http://www.imf.org/external/np/rosc/gbr/. However, this quote is out-of-date, and the Government's acquisition of majority shares in some banks in 2008-09 has increased the potential for quasi-fiscal activities. There is extensive narrative information on these actions presented under the heading Financial Sector Interventions in Budget 2009 FSR (section C.97 onwards), but this does not discuss any quasi-fiscal activities. http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>39. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on financial assets is presented, including a listing of the assets, a discussion of their purpose, and an estimate of their market value. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key information, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on financial assets is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The main source for this is Note 13a (p206) of HM Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, and the extensive discussion below it: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/annual_report_2009_full.pdf Departmental Annual Reports and Accounts also contain details of financial assets held by departments, particularly in balance sheets. Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 also contains a discussion of the Government as Shareholder (p. 70): http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file52275.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>40. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on non-financial assets held by the government?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on non-financial assets is presented, including a listing of the assets, and (where possible) an estimate of their market value. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key information, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on non-financial assets is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The National Asset Register covers fixed assets (last updated 2007): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_investment_nar_2007_index.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>41. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on expenditure arrears?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on expenditure arrears is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key expenditure arrears, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on expenditure arrears is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This is not an issue in the UK; accounting and budgeting is on an accrual basis.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	e
<p>42. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities (such as government loan guarantees)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on contingent liabilities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key contingent liabilities, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on contingent liabilities is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Contingent liabilities are itemized in the Notes to the Main Estimates. E.g., the Ministry of Defence lists all contingent liabilities above a threshold of £100.000, as well as unquantifiable contingent liabilities: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_me20_mod_1st.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>43. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on future liabilities, such as civil service pensions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on future liabilities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key future liabilities, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on future liabilities is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Long-term Public Finance Report 2008: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08_longterm_586.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
<p>44. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation provide details on the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All sources of donor assistance are identified individually. b. At least two-thirds of, but not all, sources of donor assistance, are identified individually. c. Less than two-thirds of sources of donor assistance are identified individually. d. No sources of donor assistance are identified individually. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The UK is not a recipient of donor funds.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>e</p>

<p>45. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on tax expenditures?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on tax expenditures is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key tax expenditures, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information on tax expenditures is not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009 (FSBR Chapter A) costs announced policy decisions: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud09_chaptera_307.pdf</p> <p>Annex B of the Pre-Budget Report costs announced policy decisions: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_annexb_262.pdf</p> <p>Budget 2009 (FSBR Chapter C) contains some information on tax credits: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapterc_463.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	b
<p>46. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify all earmarked revenues?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All earmarked revenues are identified individually. At least two-thirds of, but not all, earmarked revenues are identified individually. Less than two-thirds of earmarked revenues are identified individually. No earmarked revenues are identified individually. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Earmarked taxes have proven problematic in the UK, e.g. the Road Fund was set up in 1921 and financed by earmarked taxes, but frequently raided for general revenue and closed down in 1937. Sometimes, politicians make political promises that certain revenue increases will go towards certain expenditure, e.g. the Chancellor announced an increase in tobacco duties in Budget 2000 and linked this to increased health spending. This was verified with the Institute for Fiscal Studies.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	e

<p>47. What percentage of expenditure in the budget year is dedicated to spending on secret items relating to, for instance, national security and military intelligence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. One percent or less of expenditure is dedicated to secret items. b. Three percent or less, but more than one percent, of expenditure is dedicated to secret items. c. Eight percent or less, but more than three percent, of expenditure is dedicated to secret items. d. More than eight percent of expenditure is dedicated to secret items, or the percentage is not available to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The 2009-10 Main Estimates authorized net resources of £1,857,861,000 for Security and Intelligence Agencies, against a net resource total of £484,281,696,000: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_main_supply_front.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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The Budget Narrative & Performance Monitoring	
<p>48. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation explain how the proposed budget is linked to government’s stated policy goals, by administrative unit (or functional category), for the budget year?</p> <p>a. Yes, extensive information on the link between the budget and the government’s stated policy goals, by administrative unit (or functional category) is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.</p> <p>b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the link between major policy goals and the budget, but some details are excluded.</p> <p>c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.</p> <p>d. No, information on the link between the budget and the government’s stated policy goals is not presented.</p> <p>e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> The linkage between revenue measures, spending and government policy is documented at length in the Pre-Budget Report (especially chapters 1-7) and the Budget Report (especially in the EFSR): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_index.htm http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_index.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

49. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation explain how the proposed budget is linked to government's stated policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?
- Yes, extensive information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals over a multi-year period is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
 - Yes, information is presented, highlighting the major policy goals, but some details are excluded.
 - Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
 - No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals over a multi-year period is not presented.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

The periodic nature of the UK's spending review system means that the number of outer years referred to in policy goals varies. Public Service Agreements (PSAs) are published periodically alongside Comprehensive Spending Reviews (CSR), which provide three-year medium term frameworks for departments. PSAs document the government's objectives and associated performance measures. The current (2007) PSAs/CSR set out the government's highest priority outcomes up until 2010/11.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr07_repindex.htm

Overview of the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review:

http://prebudget.treasury.gov.uk/pbrcsr07/docs/pbr07_leaflet.pdf

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "c." The UK government did not present spending allocations for the 2011–12 budget year in 2009–10, but the Public Service Agreements sometimes involve setting out performance measures going beyond the end of the Spending Review period. For example, one of the targets for the Department of Transport was to increase the capacity of the rail network by 14.5% by 2013–14, despite the fact that their budget had not been set beyond 2010–11. See http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_psa5.pdf.

Researcher Response: If the question is taken literally, then "c" could be appropriate. However, this is a result of the periodic (rather than rolling) design of the UK's multi-year framework system, which means that in some years budgets cover multiple years, whereas in others they just cover one (i.e. in the outermost year of the framework).

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" because it is correct that there is not always a multi-year budget perspective (two years beyond BY) presented. However, as peer reviewer two lines out, the (major) policy goals are presented and this justifies a good value.

b

<p>50. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present non-financial data, such as the number of beneficiaries, for expenditure programs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Non-financial data are presented for all programs. b. Non-financial data are presented for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. c. Non-financial data are presented for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditure. d. No non-financial data are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Contained in Department's Annual Reports that supplement the Main Estimates, e.g.: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/volume1.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>51. Are the non-financial data presented useful for assessing how an expenditure program is performing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The non-financial data are very useful for assessing program performance. b. The non-financial data are mostly useful for assessing program performance. c. The non-financial data are somewhat useful for assessing program performance. d. No non-financial data are provided or they are not useful for assessing program performance. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Autumn Performance Reports provide a detailed update of performance against Public Service Agreements (see 49 above) later in the year and complement performance information in Departmental Reports, e.g.: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/aut-perf-report-08.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>52. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation contain performance indicators for expenditure programs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Performance indicators are presented for all programs. b. Performance indicators are presented for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. c. Performance indicators are presented for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. No performance indicators are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> See 49 and 51.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>53. Are the performance indicators sufficiently well designed, such that one can assess whether there has been progress toward meeting policy goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All performance indicators are well designed. b. Most performance indicators are well designed. c. Some performance indicators are well designed, but most are not. d. No programs have performance indicators, or they are not well designed. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> There are regular reports on performance against Public Service Agreement targets, e.g. Autumn Performance Report 2008 of the UK Department for International Development: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/aut-perf-report-08.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>54. Are performance indicators used in conjunction with performance targets presented in the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. All performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets.b. Most performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets.c. Some performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets, but most are not.d. No performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets.e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Public Service Agreements (PSAs) are published periodically alongside Comprehensive Spending Reviews (CSR), which provide three-year medium term frameworks for departments. PSAs document the government's objectives and associated performance measures. The 2004 Public Service Agreement contained targets for each objective. Responding to criticism, and following a trend of reducing the number of targets imposed, the 2007 PSAs retained only a small number of centrally determined targets, and instead emphasized benchmarks and minimum standards: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr07_repindex.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> It is very debatable whether attaching targets to all indicators leads to improved outcomes.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	C
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<p>55. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on policies (both proposals and existing commitments) in at least the budget year that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations?</p> <p>a. Yes, extensive information on policies intended to alleviate poverty is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.</p> <p>b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of key policies intended to alleviate poverty, but some details are excluded.</p> <p>c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.</p> <p>d. No, information on policies intended to alleviate poverty is not presented.</p> <p>e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2007, EFSR Chapter 5, Helping People Fairly: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_chapter5_280.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>Additional Key Information for Budget Analysis & Monitoring</p>	
<p><i>Please note that the questions in this section ask about information that is generally available to the public. The information need not be included in the executive's budget proposal or supporting documents, but may be found in other documents issued by the executive.</i></p>	
<p>56. Does the executive make available to the public a description of the tax rate or fee schedule for all revenue sources, including commercial projects involving the private sector?</p> <p>a. Yes, extensive information on tax rates, fees, royalties and other revenues sources is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.</p> <p>b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the rates and fees for major revenue sources, but some details are excluded.</p> <p>c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.</p> <p>d. No, information is not presented.</p> <p>e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> HM Revenue and Customs, Rates and Allowances: www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>57. Does the executive make available to the public an analysis of the distribution of the tax burden?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, a detailed analysis of the distribution of the tax burden is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an analysis is presented, highlighting key aspects of the distribution, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some analysis is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No analysis on the distribution of the tax burden is presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> HM Revenue and Customs, Income Tax Statistics and Distribution: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
<p>58. Does the executive make available to the public an explanation of the conditions associated with assistance from international financial institutions (IFI)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on conditions associated with IFI assistance is presented, including a narrative discussion and any quantitative targets related to both macro-economic conditionality and project-specific conditionality. b. Yes, information is presented, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on conditions associated with IFI assistance is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The UK is not a recipient of donor funds.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>e</p>

<p>59. Does the executive make available to the public an explanation of the conditions associated with assistance from donor countries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on conditions associated with donor country assistance is presented, including a narrative discussion and any quantitative targets related to both macro-economic conditionality and project-specific conditionality. b. Yes, information is presented, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on conditions associated with donor country assistance is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The UK is not a recipient of donor funds.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	e
<p>60. Does the executive make available to the public a summary that describes the budget and its proposals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, it provides a summary that is very informative. b. Yes, it provides a summary that is somewhat informative. c. Yes, but the summary is not very informative. d. No, it does not provide a summary. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget proposals are summarized on a Budget "Microsite": http://budget.treasury.gov.uk/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>61. Does the executive publish a "citizens budget" or some non-technical presentation intended for a wide audience that describes the budget and its proposals?</p> <p>a. Yes, it publishes a citizens budget that is very informative. b. Yes, it publishes a citizens budget that is somewhat informative. c. Yes, but the citizens budget is not very informative. d. No, it does not publish a citizens budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> The summary of the budget key points found at the Microsite represents a very good non-technical simply-written presentation of the budget appropriate for the wider population. These are further elaborated in the "What the budget means for your region" sections on the Budget Microsite. Budget summary on Budget Microsite 2009: http://budget.treasury.gov.uk/ "What the budget means for your region" sections on Budget Microsite: http://budget.treasury.gov.uk/regions.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
<p>62. Does the executive make available to the public non-technical definitions of terms used in the budget and other budget-related documents (for instance, in a glossary)?</p> <p>a. Yes, thorough definitions of budget terms are provided. b. Yes, definitions are provided, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some definitions are provided, but it lacks important details. d. No, definitions are not provided. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget 2009: The economy and public finances: supplementary material, chapter 2, section entitled "Conventions Used in Presenting the Public Finances" gives definitions but they are not well suited for a non-technical audience: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf A brief glossary is provided in Appendix G of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2009: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa09_annexes.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>C</p>

63. Do citizens have the right *in law* to access government information, including budget information?
- a. Yes, the right has been codified into law, and citizens are generally able in practice to obtain government information, including budget information.
 - b. Yes, the right has been codified into law, but it is sometimes not possible for citizens in practice to obtain government information, including budget information.
 - c. Yes, the right has been codified into law, but it is frequently or always impossible in practice to obtain access to government information, including budget information.
 - d. No, the right to access government information has not been codified into law, or this right does not include access to budget information.
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Citizens' rights to government information are codified in law in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which entered into force on 1 Jan 2005. However, information surrounding the budget process is sometimes not released on the grounds that doing so would harm the future development of government policy. Forty-Six percent of requests for information to HM Treasury were rejected in 2008, and this was one of the main reasons given.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/foi-statistics-report-2008.pdf> (Table 3)

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "b."

Researcher Response: We agree with Peer Reviewer Two, and have altered our response accordingly.

IBP Comment: Based on a review of comments, IBP editors chose answer "b."

b

<p>64. Are citizens able in practice to obtain financial information on expenditures for individual programs in a format that is more highly disaggregated than that which appears in the executive's budget proposal if they request it (for example, from a ministry or agency)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. In practice, highly disaggregated information is available to the public for all programs except those considered related to national security or military intelligence.b. In practice, highly disaggregated information is available to the public for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures.c. In practice, highly disaggregated information is available to the public for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditures.d. In practice, no highly disaggregated expenditure information is available.e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> According to Chapter 4 of the Review of Statutory Prohibitions on Disclosure, exemptions include information related not only to national security, but also to monetary policy, personal data (e.g., census forms or criminal records), trade secrets/manufacturing processes, and others): http://www.dca.gov.uk/StatutoryBarsReport2005.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>65. Are citizens able in practice to obtain non-financial information related to expenditures (for example, number of beneficiaries, number of persons employed by the program, etc.) for individual programs in a format that is more highly disaggregated than that which appears in the executive’s budget proposal if they request it from a ministry or agency?</p> <p>a. In practice, highly disaggregated non-financial information is available to the public for all programs except those considered related to national security or military intelligence.</p> <p>b. In practice, highly disaggregated non-financial information is available to the public for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures.</p> <p>c. In practice, highly disaggregated non-financial information is available to the public for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditures.</p> <p>d. In practice, no highly disaggregated non-financial expenditure information is available.</p> <p>e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> According to Chapter 4 of the Review of Statutory Prohibitions on Disclosure, exemptions include information related not only to national security, but also to monetary policy, personal data (e.g., census forms or criminal records), trade secrets/manufacturing processes, and others): http://www.dca.gov.uk/StatutoryBarsReport2005.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>b</p>
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Section Three: The Budget Process

The Budget Process	
Executive's Formulation of the Budget	
<p>66. How far in advance of the release of the budget is the day of its release known?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The release date is set in permanent law. The executive announces the release date at least two months in advance. The executive announces the release date less than two months but more than two weeks in advance. The executive announces the release date two weeks or less before the release, or makes no announcement. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> There is no set schedule for the budget's release but it is at the discretion of the Government and the date is announced by the Chancellor in the House of Commons. The date is publicized inter alia on the Treasury website and the announcement is widely reported in the press. The date this year was 12 February 2009; the budget itself was published on 22 April 2009, giving advance notice of over two months. http://news.parliament.uk/2009/02/2009-budget-date-announced/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	b
<p>67. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for preparation of 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 what ever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, a detailed timetable is released to the public. Yes, a timetable is released, but some details are excluded. Yes, a timetable is released, but it lacks important details. No, a timetable is not issued to the public. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Release dates vary.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	d

<p>68. Does the executive adhere to its timetable for the preparation and release of the budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The executive adheres to the dates in its timetable. b. The executive adheres to most of the key dates in its timetable. c. The executive has difficulty adhering to most of the dates in its timetable. d. The executive does not adhere to the dates in its timetable, or it does not release to the public its timetable. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Release dates vary.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	d
<p>69. Does the executive hold consultations with members of the legislature as part of its process of determining budget priorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the executive holds extensive consultations with a wide range of legislators. b. Yes, the executive holds consultations with a range of legislators, but some key members are excluded. c. Yes, the executive holds very limited consultations, involving only a few members of the legislature. d. No, the executive does not typically consult with members of the legislature as part of the budget preparation process. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The tabling of the Pre-Budget Report in the fall provides a formal opportunity for Parliament to discuss public finance and macroeconomic issues ahead of the tabling of the budget in the spring, but legislative influence is very limited.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "c" to maintain the consistency of the assumptions used in selecting answers across the countries. Legislative influence is limited but not null.</p>	C

<p>70. Does the executive hold consultations with the public as part of its process of determining budget priorities?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the executive holds extensive consultations with a wide range of constituencies. Yes, the executive holds consultations with a range of constituencies, but some key constituencies are excluded. Yes, the executive holds very limited consultations, involving only a few constituencies. No, the executive does not typically consult with the public as part of the budget preparation process. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> There are a number of formal consultations undertaken by HM Treasury, but these focus on very narrow and often technical issues. There is no formal consultation mechanism that would allow for input on broader budget priorities: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_fullindex.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	C
<p>71. When does the executive release a pre-budget statement to the public?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The executive releases a pre-budget statement at least four months in advance of the start of the budget year. The executive releases a pre-budget statement at least two months (but less than four months) in advance of the start of the budget year. The executive releases a pre-budget statement, but it is released less than two months before the start of the budget year. The executive does not release a pre-budget statement. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> 2008 Pre-Budget Report released 24 November 2008; The budget year in UK is from 1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010. http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_index.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is no fixed date for the presentation of this report. The 1997 to 2002 Pre-Budget Reports were all tabled in November (for budget years 1998-1999 to 2003-2004 respectively). The 2003 to 2006 PBRs were all tabled in December (for budget years 2004-2005 to 2007-2008 respectively). The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review (for the budget year 2008-2009) was published in October.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>72. Does the pre-budget statement describe the government's macroeconomic and fiscal framework?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the government's fiscal and macroeconomic policy is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key aspects of the fiscal and macroeconomic framework, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or the executive does not release to the public a pre-budget statement. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Pre-Budget Report 2008, Chapter 2 (for budget year 2009-2010): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_chapter2_228.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>73. Does the pre-budget statement describe the government's policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the government's budget policies and priorities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key aspects of the government's budget policies and priorities, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or the executive does not release to the public a pre-budget statement. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> There is a detailed discussion of policy, see Pre-Budget Report 2009 (for budget year 2009-2010): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_repindex.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

Legislative Approval of the Budget	
<p>74. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the budget?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The legislature receives the budget at least three months before the start of the budget year. b. The legislature receives the budget at least six weeks, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. c. The legislature receives the budget less than six weeks before the start of the budget year. d. The legislature does not receive the budget before the start of the budget year. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget was released on 22 April 2009. Budget year in UK is from 1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010. http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud09_index.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is no fixed date for the presentation of the budget. It is almost always delivered to Parliament less than 6 weeks prior to the start of the fiscal year. In 2004-2008 it was presented in March; in 2002 and 2003 it was presented in April.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	d

<p>75. Does a legislative committee (or committees) hold public hearings on the macroeconomic and fiscal framework presented in the budget in which testimony from the executive branch and the public is heard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Yes, public hearings are held on the macroeconomic and fiscal framework in which testimony is heard from the executive branch and a wide range of constituencies.b. Yes, hearings are held in which testimony is heard from the executive branch and some constituencies.c. Yes, hearings are held in which testimony from the executive branch is heard, but no testimony from the public is heard.d. No, public hearings are not held on the macroeconomic and fiscal framework in which testimony from the executive branch and the public is heard.e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Treasury Select Committee considers macroeconomic and revenue issues, which has included testimony from think tanks such as the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>76. Do legislative committees hold public hearings on the individual budgets of central government administrative units (that is, ministries, departments, and agencies) in which testimony from the executive branch is heard?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive public hearings are held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the executive branch is heard. Yes, hearings are held, covering key administrative units, in which testimony from the executive branch is heard. Yes, a limited number of hearings are held in which testimony from the executive branch is heard. No, public hearings are not held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the executive branch is heard. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Departmental Select Committees have a mandate to scrutinize the annual reports and accounts of their relevant departments and hold sessions in which they receive testimony from ministers and civil servants, e.g. Defence Select Committee Report on Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2009-2010: http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmdfence/773/773.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	b
<p>77. Does a legislative committee (or committees) hold public hearings on the individual budgets of central government administrative units (that is, ministries, departments, and agencies) in which testimony from the public is heard?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive public hearings are held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the public is heard. Yes, hearings are held, covering key administrative units, in which testimony from the public is heard. Yes, a limited number of hearings are held in which testimony from the public is heard. No, public hearings are not held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the public is heard. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	d

<p>78. Do the legislative committees that hold public hearings release reports to the public on these hearings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the committees release very informative reports, which include all written testimony presented at the hearings. b. Yes, the committees release reports, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, the committees release reports, but they are not very informative. d. No, the committees do not release reports or do not hold public hearings. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Committee reports are available from the parliamentary website: http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/select.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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79. Is the legislature (or the appropriate legislative committee or members of the legislature) given full information for the budget year on the spending of all secret items relating to, for instance, national security and military intelligence?

- a. Yes, the appropriate legislative committee or members of the legislature is provided extensive information on all spending on secret items, which includes detailed, line item descriptions of all expenditures.
- b. No, the legislature is provided information on spending on secret items, but some details are excluded, or some categories are presented in an aggregated manner, or the legislature is provided no information on secret items.
- c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

The Intelligence Services Act 1994 establishes special oversight arrangements for intelligence matters. The Intelligence and Security Committee examines the expenditure, administration and policy of the intelligence agencies. Its cross-partisan membership of nine is appointed by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. The Committee has access to highly classified material in preparing its reports, which presumably includes detailed descriptions of all expenditures. Since the process is secretive, the disclosed level of detail cannot be ascertained. The process is probably very transparent by international standards. The Committee is required to report annually to the Prime Minister on its work. These reports, after any deletions of sensitive material, are placed before Parliament and published at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/intelligence/>

a

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

<p>80. Does the legislature have authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget presented by the executive?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget. Yes, the legislature has authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget, with some limitations. Yes, the legislature has authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget, but its authority is very limited. No, the legislature does not have any authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Standing Order No. 48 of the House of Commons reserves the right to financial initiative for the Government. Parliament can cut existing items only. Formally, these are self-imposed constraints. In practice, Parliament no longer amends the budget. The last government defeat over estimates dates back to 1921. Nowadays, an amendment to the executive budget proposal would be considered a vote of no confidence and cause the fall of the government.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	C
<p>81. What is the most detail provided in the appropriation (expenditure budget) approved by the legislature?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The approved budget includes program-level detail. The approved budget includes departmental totals and some additional details (for instance, sub-department totals or major programs). The approved budget includes only departmental totals. The approved budget includes less information than departmental totals or the approved budget is not released to the public. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Amounts in the Appropriation (No. 2) Act 2009 are highly aggregated: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2009/ukpga_20090009_en_1#l1g1</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	b

Executive's Implementation of the Budget	
<p>82. How often does the executive release to the public in-year reports on actual expenditure (organized by administrative unit, economic classification and/or function)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In-year reports on actual expenditure are released at least every month. In-year reports on actual expenditure are released at least every quarter. In-year reports on actual expenditure are released at least semi-annually. In-year reports on actual expenditure are not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> A monthly bulletin on the main public sector aggregates (Monthly Public Sector Finance Statistics) are released by the Office for National Statistics and the Treasury: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_statistics.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>83. What share of expenditure is covered by in-year reports on actual expenditure (organized by administrative unit, economic classification and/or function)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, in-year reports cover all expenditures. Yes, in-year reports cover at least two-thirds, but not all, of expenditures. Yes, in-year reports cover less than two-thirds of expenditures. No in-year reports are released to the public. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Public Sector Finance release covers central and local government, as well as the public sector as a whole: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_statistics.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>84. What is the most detail provided in the in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by <i>administrative unit</i>?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit contain program-level detail. The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit contain departmental totals and some additional details (for instance, sub-department totals or major programs). The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit contain only departmental totals. The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit are not released to the public, not produced, or contain less information than departmental totals. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Public Sector Finance release contains aggregates for the different parts of the public sector only: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_statistics.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	d
<p>85. Do the in-year reports released to the public compare actual year-to-date expenditure with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, comparisons are made for all expenditures. Yes, comparisons are made for at least two-thirds, but not all, of expenditures. Yes, but comparisons are made for less than two-thirds of expenditures. No, comparisons are not made, or no in-year reports are released to the public. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Public Sector Finance release compares actual year-to-date expenditure with the same period in the previous year. As an example refer to the table on page 3. http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_statistics.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>86. How often does the executive release to the public in-year reports on actual revenue collections by source of revenue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In-year reports on actual revenue collections by source of revenue are released at least every month. b. In-year reports on actual revenue collections are released at least every quarter. c. In-year reports on actual revenue collections are released at least semi-annually. d. In-year reports on actual revenue collections by source of revenue are not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation and/or comment:</u> The Public Sector Finance release contains a breakdown of current receipts (PSF3): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_statistics.htm</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
<p>87. What share of revenue is covered by the in-year reports on actual revenue collections?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In-year reports cover the actual revenue collections of all sources of revenue. b. In-year reports cover the actual revenue collections of at least two-thirds of, but not all, sources of revenue. c. In-year reports cover actual revenue collections of less than two-thirds of revenue sources. d. In-year reports on actual revenue collections are not released to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Table PSF3 in the Public Sector Finance release contains comprehensive data on current receipts by the central government: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_statistics.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>

<p>88. Do the in-year reports released to the public compare actual year-to-date revenue collections with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, comparisons are made for all revenue sources. b. Yes, comparisons are made for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue sources. c. Yes, but comparisons are made for less than two-thirds of revenue sources. d. No, comparisons are not made, or no in-year reports are released to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Public Sector Finance release compares actual year-to-date expenditure with the same period in the previous year. As an example, refer to the table on page 3 and Table PSF3 (http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/psf.pdf). http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_statistics.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>89. Does the executive release to the public in-year reports on actual borrowing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, in-year reports on actual borrowing are released at least every month. b. Yes, in-year reports on actual borrowing are released at least every quarter. c. Yes, in-year reports on actual borrowing are released at least semi-annually. d. No, in-year reports on actual borrowing are not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Public Sector Finance release reports on actual borrowing. For example tables on Public sector; Reconciliation of public finance statistics; Sectoral breakdown of public sector borrowing: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_statistics.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>90. Do in-year reports released to the public on actual borrowing present information related to the composition of government debt (such as interest rates on the debt, maturity profile of the debt, and currency denomination of the debt) for the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information related to the composition of government debt is presented. b. Yes, key additional information is presented, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some additional information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, additional information related to the composition of government debt is not presented, or such in-year reports on borrowing are not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Every three months the UK Debt Management Office publishes a Quarterly Review summarising its gilt and money markets operations over the given quarter: http://dmo.gov.uk/index.aspx?page=publications/Quarterly_Reviews The monthly Financial Statistics released by the Office for National Statistics contain additional details on the currency denomination of the debt (table 1.2H on UK Central government and other public sector foreign currency debt; table 1.2I.A on currency breakdown of UK central government foreign currency assets & Liabilities): http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Finstats_Sept09.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>91. For in-year reports on actual expenditure released to the public by the executive, how much time typically elapses between the end of the reporting period and when the report is released (e.g., are quarterly reports released less than 4 weeks after the end of the quarter)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reports are released 1 month or less after the end of the period. Reports are released 2 months or less (but more than 1 month) after the end of the period. Reports are released more than 2 months after the end of the period. In-year reports are not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Public Sector Finance release for July 2009 was published on 20 August 2009: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/psf0809.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>92. Does the executive release to the public a mid-year review of the budget that discusses the changes in economic outlook since the budget was enacted?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the mid-year review includes an extensive discussion of the economy that includes a revised forecast for the full fiscal year and its effects on the budget. Yes, the mid-year review includes a discussion of the economy, but it lacks some details. Yes, the mid-year review includes a discussion of the economy, but it lacks important details. No, the mid-year review does not include a discussion of the economy, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Annex A and Annex B of the Pre-Budget Report serve this function: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_repindex.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>93. Does the executive release to the public a mid-year review of the budget that includes updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated expenditure estimates for the full fiscal year, providing extensive information on why estimates have changed from the original enacted levels. b. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of expenditure, but some details on why estimates have changed are not provided. c. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of expenditure, but important details on why estimates have changed are not provided. d. No, the mid-year review does not include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Annex A and Annex B of the Pre-Budget Report serve this function. There is a specific comparison of original and updated expenditure estimates in Table B17: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_repindex.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>94. What is the most detail provided in the mid-year review for expenditures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The mid-year review includes program-level detail for expenditures. b. The mid-year review includes departmental totals (or functional totals) and some additional details (for instance, sub-department totals or major programs). c. The mid-year review includes only departmental totals (or functional totals). d. The mid-year review includes less information than departmental totals (or functional totals) for expenditures, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Annex B of the Pre-Budget Report includes departmental totals (Table B18): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_index.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	b

<p>95. Does the executive release to the public a mid-year review of the budget that includes updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated revenue estimates for the full fiscal year, providing extensive information on why estimates have changed from the original enacted levels. b. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of revenue, but some details on why estimates have changed are not provided. c. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of revenue, but important details on why estimates have changed are not provided. d. No, the mid-year review does not include updated revenue estimates for the budget year, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Annex B of the Pre-Budget Report 2008, e.g. Table B13; p.199 for narrative explanation of why changes have been made: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_index.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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96. Does the executive seek input from the legislature when the executive shifts funds between administrative units (except when the amounts are below a certain *minimal* level specified in law or regulation)?
- a. Yes, the executive seeks approval from the legislature before shifting funds between administrative units.
 - b. Yes, the executive gives prior notification to the legislature before shifting funds, giving the legislature an opportunity to block or modify the proposed adjustment.
 - c. Yes, the executive seeks legislative approval, but only after the shift of funds has been implemented.
 - d. No, the executive shifts funds between administrative units without seeking input from the legislature, or the amount allowed under the law or by regulation is significantly large enough to undermine public scrutiny and accountability (please describe arrangements below).
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

The reserve and the regular intervals with which supplementary estimates are tabled (see question 98 below) give the executive very substantial flexibility. Moreover, HM Treasury controls transfers and uses its discretion in approving them: "If the proposed reallocation is thought to be of so great a departure from the original estimate, then it will be brought before Parliament by means of a supplementary estimate" (Lienert 2004, p. 431). Approval of a supplementary estimate as with any estimate is routinely granted. Ian Lienert (2004), "The Legal Framework for Budget Systems," OECD Journal on Budgeting Vol. 4 No. 3 (special issue).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

d

<p>97. During the past year, have there been credible reported instances in which the procurement of goods and services has not followed an open and competitive process in practice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There were no credible reported instances of procurement failing to follow an open and competitive process in practice during the past year. b. The procurement of goods and services frequently followed an open and competitive process in practice, but there were some reported instances of irregularities. c. The procurement of goods and service followed an open and competitive process in many instances, but there were significant reported examples of irregularities. d. No, the procurement process was not open and competitive in practice. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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98. When does the legislature typically approve supplemental budgets?

- a. Supplemental budgets are approved before the funds are expended, or the executive rarely proposes a supplemental budget (please specify).
- b. Supplemental budgets are approved after the funds are expended, or the executive implements supplemental budgets without ever receiving approval from the legislature (please specify).
- c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

There are up to three regular occasions for tabling Supplementary Estimates: winter, spring and summer. Revised Estimates may also be presented in the summer to adjust the Main Estimates before Parliament approves them. New Estimates may also be introduced in the course of the year. "Out-of-turn" Supplementary Estimates may be presented at any time in the year when Parliament is sitting. This only occurs in exceptional circumstances, where urgent additional provision is needed at short notice and where this cannot await a Normal Estimates round.

Executive flexibility during budget execution is substantial, but there are limits. The Exchequer and Audit Departments Act of 1866 allow the Treasury to withhold funds. Treasury uses discretion in reallocating funds, but if adjustments are deemed substantial, a Supplementary Estimate is tabled. Additional spending can be made before parliamentary approval from the Contingencies Fund, which is limited by the Contingencies Fund Act of 1974 to two percent of authorized supply expenditure of the previous year. In addition, a "vote on credit" can be used to obtain parliamentary approval for a lump sum for which the purpose can only be stated in general terms.

Refer to Ian Lienert (2004), "The Legal Framework for Budget Systems," OECD Journal on Budgeting Vol. 4 No. 3 (special issue), pp. 430-1.

In general, Winter and Spring Supplementary Estimates are common, Summer Supplementary Estimates are less common, and Out-of-turn Supplementary Estimates are rare. During 2008-2009, there were Winter, Spring and Summer Supplementary Estimates, and the UK government's interventions in the financial sector in the autumn of 2008 required the tabling of the "Out-of-Turn Supplementary Estimates 2008-09" (13 October 2008, HC 1061). During 2007-2008 and 2006-2007, there were Winter and Spring Supplementary Estimates.

All recent Supplementary Estimates are available here:
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_estimates_supplementary.htm

Comment:

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

a

99. In most years, how large are supplemental budget requests relative to the size of the original budget?

- a. Supplemental budgets are generally equal to 2 percent or less of the original budget.
- b. Supplemental budgets are generally equal to more than 2 percent, but less than 5 percent, of the original budget.
- c. Supplemental budget are generally equal to more than 5 percent, but less than 10 percent, of the original budget.
- d. Supplemental budget are generally equal to 10 percent or more of the original budget, or insufficient information is available to the public regarding the amount of supplemental budgets.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

For 2007-2008 the total supplementary request for resources was 5.2% of the original net resource requirement and the total supplementary request for cash was 3.8% of the original net cash requirement. For 2008-2009 the total supplementary request for resources was 10.1% of the original net resource requirement and the total supplementary request for cash was 21.6% of the original net cash requirement. For most years prior to 2008-2009, the difference has been between 3 and 5 percent of the original budget.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_estimates_supplementary.htm

Comment:

Resources refer to gross resource requirement less operating appropriations in aid. Cash refers to resources, plus capital and less non-operating appropriations in aid and accruals to cash adjustments.

Peer Reviewer One Comment: I agree with the response, as even though the supplemental budget exceeds 10 percent of the original budget in years 2008-2009, 2003-2004 (9.38%), and 2002-03 (9.88%), for most of the years the wedge lies in the 3-5 percent range. It would be helpful, however, if question 99 were to be formulated in a more specific context. That is, how many years shall one consider in the consideration of the "most years?"

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Researcher Response: We agree with Peer Reviewer One – the question could be made more specific.

b

100. When does the legislature approve the expenditure of contingency funds or other funds for which no specific purpose was identified in the budget?

- a. Expenditures are approved before the funds are expended, or contingency funds or other funds with no specific purposes are not included in the budget.
- b. Expenditures are approved after the funds are expended, but before the end of the fiscal year.
- c. Expenditures are approved after the end of the fiscal year, for example in the next budget.
- d. Such expenditure takes place without legislative approval.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

There is a Contingency Fund, which may be used to finance urgent expenditure in anticipation of parliamentary approval. Total advances outstanding at any one time must not exceed 2 per cent of the previous year's total cash supply provision. Advances are repaid when Parliament votes additional cash.

Information on the use of the contingency fund can be found on Section 5.B of the Supply Estimates Guidance Manual at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/estimates_manual011007.pdf. Although paragraph 5.4 states that "no resources or cash may be utilized by a department on a service until Parliament has provided the necessary authorization," paragraph 5.7 supports response "b." By stating "Use of the Fund can only be considered where it would clearly be contrary to the public interest to delay expenditure until parliamentary approval has been obtained and where there are no reasonable grounds to doubt that Parliament is willing to approve any necessary enabling legislation, the increased net cash requirement and any associated resources." However, as paragraph 5.5 makes clear "The limit is fixed at 2 per cent of the total of authorized Supply expenditure (i.e., the total of all authorized departmental net cash requirements) in the preceding financial year."

b

Comment:

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Executive's Year-end Report and the Supreme Audit Institution	
<p>101. How long after the end of the budget year does the executive release to the public a year-end report that discusses the budget's actual outcome for the year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The report is released six months or less after the end of the fiscal year. b. The report is released 12 months or less (but more than six months) after the end of the fiscal year. c. The report is released more than 12 months after the end of the fiscal year. d. The executive does not release a year-end report. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper 2008-2009 (published July 2009) contains provisional information on public actual public expenditure: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa09.htm More comprehensive information, including on taxes and debt, is contained in the End of Year Fiscal Report, which is released with the PBR, more than six months after the end of the fiscal year: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_fiscalreport.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	b

<p>102. In the year-end report have the data on the actual outcomes been audited?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, all data on actual outcomes have been audited. At least two-thirds, but not all, of the data on actual outcomes have been audited. Less than two-thirds of the data on actual outcomes have been audited. None of the data on actual outcomes has been audited, or a year-end report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> In terms of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000, audited departmental accounts have to be submitted to Parliament by the end of January (section 6). Accounts may be tabled before the deadline, e.g. the Department for International Development published its audited Resource Accounts 2008-2009 (for the year ended 31 March 2009) in July 2009. These are tabled separately from the Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper and the End of Year Fiscal Report. In that sense, there is no single "year-end report" but a series of different reports, and only the departmental accounts are audited.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>103. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> End of Year Fiscal Report 2008, chapter 4: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_fiscalreport.htm In addition, departmental accounts contain a Management Commentary with a brief statement on over or underspending. E.g.: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/vol2-resource-acc.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>104. What level of detail is the focus of the explanation of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for expenditures presented in the year-end report?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The explanation of the differences between the enacted expenditure levels and the actual outcome focuses on the program level. b. The explanation focuses on departmental totals (or functional totals) or some lower level of detail (but not the program level in all cases). c. The explanation focuses on a higher level of aggregation than departmental totals (or functional totals). d. No explanation of the differences is provided, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Refer to the citations for question 103. The End of Year Fiscal Report does not break down the reasons for the difference between forecast spending and the outturn by government department. However, the Management Commentary in the departmental accounts includes a (brief) discussion of variances exceeding 10%.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>b</p>
<p>105. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> End of Year Fiscal Report 2008 (on the budgets for 2006-7 and 2007-8): http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_fiscalreport.htm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The End of Year Fiscal Report, first published alongside the 2002 Pre-Budget Report, contains retrospective reporting for the previous two budgets.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>

<p>106. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> This is not the focus of the End of Fiscal Year Report, which comments on deviations from the fiscal projections, which may of course have macroeconomic reasons. The Budget (Chapter B of the FSBR) discusses macroeconomic developments and updates Annex A of the Pre-Budget Report. This includes some comparison with prior estimates, but not comprehensively. There is no separate document similar to the End of Fiscal Year Report to consider specifically forecast and outturn differences for various macroeconomic variables.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>C</p>
<p>107. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the original estimates of non-financial data and the actual outcome?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Departments present annual reports that discuss non-financial data. E.g.: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Annual-report/Annual-Report-2009/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>

<p>108. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the original performance indicators and the actual outcome?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Departments present annual reports that discuss non-financial data. E.g.: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Annual-report/Annual-Report-2009/ This is complemented with detailed Performance Reports in the autumn. E.g.: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/aut-perf-report-08.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
<p>109. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the enacted level of funds intended to benefit directly the country’s most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Individual departmental accounts could be consulted for expenditures of interest, but such information is not bundled in a separate and dedicated document.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>d</p>

<p>110. Does the year-end report present the actual outcome for extra-budgetary funds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on the actual outcome for extra-budgetary funds is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key issues, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information is not presented on extra-budgetary funds, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Trading Funds prepare accounts under section 4 of the Government Trading Funds Act 1973 and these are audited under section 4(6) of this act. The PAC has responsibility for scrutinizing the accounts. Annual reports are submitted to Parliament, e.g. Ordnance Survey Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09: http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/aboutus/reports/annualreport/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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The Independence and Performance of the Supreme Audit Institution	
<p>111. How long after the end of the fiscal year are the final annual expenditures of national departments audited and (except for secret programs) released to the public?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Final audited accounts are released to the public six months or less after the end of the fiscal year. b. Final audited accounts are released 12 months or less (but more than six months) after the end of the fiscal year. c. Final audit accounts are released more than 12 months, but within 24 months of the end of the fiscal year. d. Final audited accounts are not completed within 24 months after the end of the fiscal year or they are not released to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The finalization of accounts has been accelerated a great deal over the past years. For 2008-2009, 74% were audited within four months of the end of the fiscal year. The remainder took longer. The National Audit Office (NAO) publishes an Annual Report into its performance on this and other variables: http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/nao_annual_report_2009.aspx</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>b</p>

<p>112. Two years after the completion of a fiscal year, what percentage of annual expenditures has been audited and (except for secret programs) the report(s) released to the public?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All expenditures have been audited and the reports released to the public. Expenditures representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditure have been audited. Expenditure representing less than two-thirds of expenditure have been audited. No expenditures have been audited, the reports have not been released to the public, or was released more than 24 months after the end of the fiscal year. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Comptroller and Auditor General has a statutory responsibility to audit the financial statements of all central government departments, agencies and other public bodies, and to report the results of his examination to Parliament. In 2008-2009, NAO audited 448 accounts covering more than £495 billion of expenditure: http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/nao_annual_report_2009.aspx</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>113. Does the annual audit report(s) that is released to the public include an executive summary?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The annual audit report(s) includes one or more executive summaries summarizing the report's content. No, the audit report(s) does not include an executive summary, or such reports are not released to the public, or was released more than 24 months after the end of the fiscal year. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> General report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for 2008: http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/general_report_for_2008.aspx</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a

<p>114. 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?</p> <p>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 they are removed.</p> <p>b. No, the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.</p> <p>c. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> According to section 1(1) of the 1983 National Audit Act: "The power of Her Majesty under section 6 of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866 (appointment of Comptroller and Auditor General) shall be exercisable on an address presented by the House of Commons, and no motion shall be made for such an address except by the Prime Minister acting with the agreement of the Chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts." The Chair of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is by convention a member of the opposition.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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115. Does the Supreme Audit Institution release to the public audits of extra-budgetary funds?

- a. Yes, the SAI releases to the public audits of all extra-budgetary funds.
- b. Yes, the SAI releases audits representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, extra-budgetary funds.
- c. Yes, the SAI releases audits representing less than two-thirds of all extra-budgetary funds.
- d. No, the SAI does not release to the public audits of extra-budgetary funds, or it does not audit such funds, or such a report was released more than 24 months after the end of the fiscal year.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

According to the Guide to the Establishment and Operation of Trading Funds, Trading funds are a means of financing the revenue-generating operations of a government department which takes them outside the supply process. They are not separate legal entities and remain part of a department (or are departments in their own right). Trading funds do not receive voted money and are expected to cover their costs through the income from customers. However, they are all subject to audit and accountable to Parliament:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Guide_to_the_Establishment_and_Operation_of_Trading_Funds.pdf

Their audited accounts are published annually as part of each trading fund's annual report. For example, the Royal Mint 2008-9 annual report:

<http://www.officialdocuments.gov.uk/document/hc0809/hc05/0570/0570.pdf>

Another example is the Defence Support Group Trading Fund:

<http://www.dsg.mod.uk/accounts/DSGAccounts2008-2009.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

a

<p>116. Beyond the established year-end attestation audits, does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have <i>the discretion in law</i> to undertake those audits it may wish to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake. b. The SAI has significant discretion, but faces some limitations. c. The SAI has some discretion, but faces considerable limitations. d. The SAI has no discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> According to section 1(3) of the 1983 National Audit Act: "Subject to any duty imposed on him by statute, the Comptroller and Auditor General shall have complete discretion in the discharge of his functions and, in particular, in determining whether to carry out any examination under Part II of this Act and as to the manner in which any such examination is carried out; but in determining whether to carry out any such examination he shall take into account any proposals made by the Committee of Public Accounts."</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>117. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 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. b. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. c. The budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. d. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The National Audit Office (NAO) is funded directly by a parliamentary supply grant agreed by the Public Accounts Commission, a parliamentary body that is distinct from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/public_accounts_commission.cfm</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>
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118. Does the Supreme Audit Institution employ designated staff for undertaking audits of the central government agencies pertaining to the security sector (military, police, intelligence services)?

- a. The SAI employs designated staff, and the staffing levels are broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.
- b. The SAI employs designated staff, but the staffing levels are a cause of some constraints to the SAI in fulfilling its mandate.
- c. The SAI employs designated staff, but the staffing levels pose a significant constraint on the SAI in fulfilling its mandate.
- d. The SAI does not employ designated staff for auditing of the security sector, or does not undertake audits of the security sector.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

The SAI does employ designated staff for undertaking audits of government security sectors. For example, with reference to the Ministry of Defence, the National Audit Office has set up the UK NAO Defence Value for Money Team (VFM), which has as a goal "to better understand what drives the performance of major defence projects." In one instance, it is made clear that the team has employed the services of IBM consultants to help them "develop a tool to aid departmental and industry teams in making a better informed choice of the contracting strategy MOT suited to the circumstances of the procurement."

http://www.nao.org.uk/our_work_by_sector/defence/defence_vfm.aspx

The VFM Team has also created collaborative relationships with a number of external agencies to assist them in their contracting practices, successful delivery of projects, etc. Examples can be found at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/our_work_by_sector/defence/defence_vfm/project_control.aspx

http://www.nao.org.uk/our_work_by_sector/defence/defence_vfm/collaborative_relationships.aspx

Another example of such an audit conducted of the Ministry of Defence by the National Audit Office for 2008-2009 can be found at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/the_type_45_destroyer.aspx

Comment:

Members of the relevant National Audit Office study team are listed at the beginning of a report.

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: I agree with the response.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "d." The NAO does not appear to employ designated staff for undertaking audits of the security sector, although it does audit the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office and related bodies. See <http://www.nao.org.uk/sectors/defence.aspx>. The fact that designated staff is not employed, however, does not necessarily mean that the NAO does not adequately audit these areas.

Researcher Response: We agree with Peer Reviewer One, whose additional

a

<p>information supports our original conclusion. We have copied and pasted Peer Reviewer One’s comments into our response accordingly. Peer Reviewer Two’s conclusions are contradicted by our own conclusions and those of Peer Reviewer One.</p> <p>IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer “a” and agree with the researcher on the basis of the information provided (specific defence teams / knowledge).</p>	
<p>119. Does the Supreme Audit Institution maintain formal mechanisms of communication with the public to receive complaints and suggestions to assist it in determining its audit program (that is, to identify the agencies, programs, or projects it will audit)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the SAI maintains mechanisms of communication with the public, and received more than 100 communications from the public during the past year. b. Yes, the SAI maintains mechanisms of communication with the public, and received less than 100 but more than ten communications from the public during the past year. c. Yes, the SAI maintains mechanisms of communication with the public but it receives very little (less than ten) or no information from the public on potential subjects for audit. d. No, the SAI does not maintain any formal mechanisms of communication with the public. e. Not applicable. <p><u>Citation:</u> The National Audit Office (NAO) has a complete independence in determining its audit programme, which is in line with section 13.1 of INTOSAI's Lima Declaration (in practice it consults the Public Account Committee). It is in my view a very bad idea to have public consultations on the audit program, which could seriously compromise the independence of the Supreme Audit Institution. However, the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Auditor General for Wales and the C&AG for Northern Ireland are prescribed persons under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, to whom external disclosures can be made relating to “the proper conduct of public business, fraud, value for money and corruption in relation to the provision of centrally-funded public services.” The NAO maintains a Whistleblowers Hotline for this purpose: http://www.nao.org.uk/contact_us/whistleblowers.aspx According to NAO's 2009 Annual Report, it “dealt with a wide range of inquiries, including over 700 items of correspondence from Members of Parliament and members of the public.” http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/nao_annual_report_2009.aspx</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	<p>a</p>

120. Does a committee of the legislature view and scrutinize the audit reports?

- a. Yes, all audit reports are scrutinized.
- b. Yes, most audit reports are scrutinized.
- c. Yes, some audit reports are scrutinized.
- d. No, audit reports are not scrutinized.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

To scrutinize all audit reports would be impossible. The NAO audits about 450 accounts per year and also produces about 60 Value for Money audit reports. Each year around 40 to 50 reports – both value for money reports and reports on accounts of public bodies – are investigated further by the PAC. The committee procedure involves the questioning of relevant accounting officers in a public hearing. UK ex post financial scrutiny is very thorough, and very few countries reach the level of scrutiny achieved by the PAC in the House of Commons. The selection of reports that get a hearing is done very carefully, taking into account factors such as risks to the public finances and past performance. The UK should get the top score in this category, but the phrasing of the response categories does not permit this.

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "c" since fewer than half of the reports of the NAO are scrutinized. However, I agree with the comments above that the UK ought to get the top score in this category, but technically this is the correct answer to the question.

Researcher Response: We disagree with Peer Reviewer Two, and think the answer should remain "b." We acknowledge the comment, but answer "c" would seriously misrepresent the very high - exceptional by international standards - quality of audit scrutiny by the House of Commons' Public Accounts Committee. Answer "b" is a reasonable compromise. Also, it is true that the PAC scrutinizes most value for money reports.

IBP Comment: IBP editors agree with the researcher's response and chose answer "b."

b

<p>121. 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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the executive reports publicly on what steps it has taken to address audit findings. b. Yes, the executive reports publicly on most audit findings. c. Yes, the executive reports publicly on some audit findings. d. No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> In the case of Public Accounts Committee reports, a reply is always made in the form of a Treasury Minute presented in the name of the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and published as a command Paper. http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm74/7453/7453.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	a
<p>122. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution or the legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, a comprehensive report is released regularly that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations. b. Yes, a report is released, covering key audit recommendations, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, a report is released, but it lacks important details. d. No, a report is not produced or it is prepared for internal purposes only (please specify). e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> There are no regular tracking reports. However, the NAO does occasionally produce stand-alone follow-up reports on particular topics.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p>	d

<p>123. Are audit reports of the annual accounts of the security sector (military, police, intelligence services) and other secret programs provided to the legislature (or relevant committee)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, legislators are provided with detailed audit reports related to the security sector and other secret programs. b. Yes, legislators are provided audit reports on secret items, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, legislators are provided audit reports on secret items, but they lack important details. d. No, legislators are not provided audit reports on secret items, or secret programs are not audited (please specify). e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> National Audit Office staff are cleared to see security-classified papers. Classified reports have in the past been brought to the attention of the Chairperson of the PAC in the form of memoranda. For instance, three audits relating to the intelligence services and carried out in 1992 and 1995 were submitted as memoranda. The Government later consented to their publication and they were published in 2000 (HC 236 Session 1999-2000). See UK NAO Report: Thames House and Vauxhall Cross: http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/9900/thames_house_-_vauxhall_cross.aspx</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "c"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "b" to maintain the consistency of the assumptions used in selecting answers across the countries.</p>	<p>b</p>
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