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# **Supply Estimates 1999–2000**

## **Statement of Excesses**

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**Supply Estimates**  
**1999–2000**

**for the year ending 31 March 2000**

**Statement of Excesses**

*Presented by Command of Her Majesty*  
*Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed*  
*March 2001*



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# Introduction

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1. This Statement of Excesses sets out the amounts of money which the Government requests Parliament to grant in Excess Votes.
2. Excess Votes are presented if expenditure from any Vote has exceeded the provision in main, or Revised and Supplementary Estimates approved by Parliament and if there had been no opportunity to seek a further Supplementary Estimate before the end of the relevant financial year.
3. Before any Excess Votes are sought, the Appropriation Account for each Vote is prepared by the relevant department. The Accounts are examined and certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General and laid before the House of Commons. A report is made in respect of each Vote where the amount authorised by Parliament has been exceeded.
4. Parliament votes both gross provision and the amount of receipts which a department may appropriate in aid of expenditure. An Excess Vote must therefore be sought even though there are surplus receipts available to be applied as appropriations in aid of the excess expenditure. In that case, the Excess Vote is for a token sum of £1,000 only.
5. A Statement of Excesses is normally presented to Parliament in February, some 10 months after the end of the financial year to which it relates. Under House of Commons Standing Orders, if the Committee of Public Accounts has reported that it sees no objection to the sums necessary being provided by Excess Vote, the question on the motion to approve them is put without debate. Issues from the Consolidated Fund in respect of Excess Votes are given legislative authority in the spring Consolidated Fund Act in March.
6. Part I shows the net total amount of Excess Votes. Part II provides a Statement of Excesses for each Vote concerned and Part III provides an explanation of the reasons for each excess.

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1999–2000

STATEMENT OF EXCESSES

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**Part I**

**£447,616.60**

STATEMENT of the sums required to be voted in order to make good  
excesses on certain grants for the year ended 31 March 2000

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**Part II**

Summary of 1999–2000 Statement of Excesses by Vote

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| Vote Title  | £                 | Amount to<br>be voted<br>£ |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>X–Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Intervention Board<br/>and Forestry</b> |                   |                            |
| 2 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food<br>Excess expenditure                           | 308,778.00        |                            |
| Less net savings on other subheads  | <u>307,778.00</u> | 1,000.00                   |
| 3 Forestry Commission<br>Excess expenditure   |                   | <u>446,616.60</u>          |
|   |                   | 447,616.60                 |

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TREASURY CHAMBERS

March 2001

STEPHEN TIMMS

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## Part III Explanations

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**Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food  
(Class X, Vote 2)**

The appropriation account shows payments having been made of £307,778.00 which were not covered by the ambit of the Vote. The payments were made into court in final settlement of some of the claims arising out of the Factortame Judgement. Earlier payments had been funded from the Contingencies Fund in anticipation of Parliamentary approval of a Supplementary Estimate to amend the ambit of the Vote. But towards the end of the financial year MAFF's legal counsel advised that further payments should be made to settle some final claims and these were erroneously made from the Vote rather than through a further Contingencies Fund advance. There was therefore no proper Parliamentary Authority for the payments and the excess arises because the payments are *ultra vires*. The Ministry has made savings on the Vote which cover the irregular expenditure. The authority of Parliament is sought to authorise £307,778.00 of the savings on the Vote to be applied towards meeting the excess leaving a token sum of £1,000 to be voted as a further supply grant.

**Forestry Commission  
(Class X, Vote 3)**

The appropriation account shows excess expenditure of £446,616.60 (0.6 per cent) in excess of the Estimate which, as increased by the Supplementary Estimate presented in November 1999 (HC 4 of 1999-2000), amounted to £76,115,000. The excess comprised £519,000 on subhead A2 and £1,364,000 on subhead A3 offset by savings on subhead A4 of £1,436,000. The excess arose through the failure of the Commission to adequately take account of an unusual profile of VAT payments when monitoring its cash flows in 1999-2000. The authority of Parliament is sought to provide for the excess by voting a further supply grant of £446,616.60.

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