

3 August 2017

Ref: FOI2017/11881

Freedom of Information Act 2000: The National Asset Register

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 6 July 2017.

You asked for the following information:

- "1. What consideration has been given by Ministers to updating the National Assets Register of January 2007?*
 - 2. If Ministers have considered and decided against updating, what are the reasons for the Ministers' decisions.*
- Thank you."*

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

The National Asset Register was designed to produce a comprehensive record of all Government-owned assets. It was originally published in 1997 and then updated in 2001 and 2007. In 2009-10 it was decided to stop the publication of a National Assets Register in anticipation of the first Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) being published.

The WGA is a consolidated set of financial statements for the UK public sector, providing a comprehensive view of both the Government's assets and its liabilities. It brings together the audited accounts of more than 6,000 organisations across the public sector and follows the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) system of accounts, as used internationally by the private sector and advocated as best practise by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

The WGA promote financial transparency and accountability and support the Government's drive to make more public data available. They also enable direct comparison of financial data across the public sector and are used to produce trend data to inform future analysis and decision-making. Such data feeds into the evidence base that Government departments use, in partnership with HM Treasury, to manage their assets and informs decisions taken by Government ministers.

The latest Whole of Government Accounts available are for 2015-16 and were published in July 2017. They can be accessed online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/whole-of-government-accounts>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Information Rights Unit