



HM TREASURY

PESA National Statistics user consultation

December 2011



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Any queries regarding this publication should be sent to us at: public.enquiries@hm-treasury.gov.uk.

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About the consultation

Intended audience

1.1 The intended audience for this consultation is any person or body who provides data for; or uses; or has a strong interest in, Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses releases e.g. government bodies; businesses; local authorities; voluntary organisations; academics, etc.

About PESA National Statistics

1.2 The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) National Statistics are published by HM Treasury and are intended to give a comprehensive overview of Public Spending in the UK. Users, and the public more generally, can access all of our statistical products and services, and accompanying metadata, by clicking on the 'Statistics' area of the Department's website. HM Treasury statistics are also accessible from the National Statistics Publication Hub.

1.3 The questions presented in this consultation were informed by members of the Government Statistical Service within Treasury and routine feedback received from stakeholders.

Contact details:

Responses to the consultation or requests for further information should be directed to:

statistics-enquiries@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

PESA Team, G/SE/01

HM Treasury

1 Horse Guard's Road, London SW1A 2HQ

Duration:

Start date: 22 December 2011 End date: 15 March 2012 (Duration: 12 weeks)

Additional ways to become involved: The consultation will be conducted purely as a written exercise. Known providers/users will be contacted by e-mail and invited to participate. After the consultation we will publish a summary of the responses received on the Consultations page of the HM Treasury website

1.4 In every respect this consultation complies with both the UK Statistics Authority's *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* and the government's *Code of Practice on Consultation* issued by the Better Regulation Executive in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and in line with the Code's seven consultation criteria, which are set out at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/consultation-guidance>.

1.5 If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer

generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the department. HM Treasury will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

1.6 Individual responses will not be acknowledged unless specifically requested.

1.7 Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.

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Consultation questions

2.1 The overriding purpose of the consultation is to seek views from users about the particular uses to which they put our statistics. Suggested key questions are arranged below by theme, however users need not stick rigidly to these and may comment on any aspect of PESA publications. *This includes the annual PESA command paper, a compendium of already published PESA National Statistics along with departmental spending plans.*

Theme 1: Linkages with other publications

- Do you primarily refer to the PESA command paper, or the earlier PESA National Statistics releases?
- Do you understand the distinction between the PESA command paper and PESA National Statistics releases? Which do you refer to more often?
- Which of the following related data releases from government do you use:
 - Supply Estimates, Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper, COINS transparency releases (HM Treasury)
 - Public Sector data in National Accounts (Office for National Statistics), Public Sector Finances (Office for National Statistics/HM Treasury)
 - Common Core Tables in departmental Annual reports, details of spending items over £25,000 (published by each department)
- To what extent do you think PESA complements the other sources above? Which publications of government spending data do you find most useful?
- Are there any other publications which you consider to be related to PESA?

Theme 2: Current uses of PESA National Statistics

- What do you use our statistics for? Do you consider the PESA National Statistics fit your purposes?
- Which parts of our existing publications do you use? Which tables do you refer to most frequently? Are there any particular tables which you never use?
- What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of PESA National Statistics?

Theme 3: Country and Regional Analysis

The majority of the department's official statistics relate to the whole of UK. Some of our statistical series, however, are regional. Do you consider the geographical data in PESA publications to be fit for your purposes? In particular:

- Are the data useful? Could similar information be obtained from other alternative data sources?

- Is a regional breakdown useful or should we focus only on countries?
- Do you have any particular comments in relation to the CRA methodology?

Theme 4: Potential Future developments

- Do you have any suggestions for changes to the data we collect and publish, in the development of statistics or products or services related to public spending?
- PESA National Statistics are largely sourced from COINS, the Treasury data base used to monitor and report on public spending, and from next year will be based on OSCAR, the replacement for COINS. Do you consider there to be any alternative data sources which could complement or replace use of COINS/OSCAR?
- Are you content with the methodology used in PESA and the explanatory guidance published?
- Are there any particular new visualisations or presentations of the data that you would find particularly useful?
- Do you have any suggestions on areas that we should focus on to improve the commentary in PESA publications?

Theme 5: Future Engagement

Would you like a user event or regular user group? If so, do you think the value of any such forums would be from discussion among users, or from the improved engagement with the producers of PESA?

Are there any existing forums with which PESA producers should become involved?

HM Treasury contacts

This document can be found in full on our website: <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk>

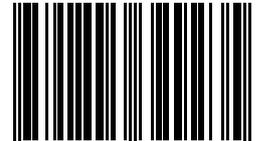
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