

Presented pursuant to Section 5(4) of the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act 1952

Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Fund Accounts 2006-2007

ORDERED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO BE PRINTED 11 OCTOBER 2007

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Foreword

History

This fund was established under Section 5 of the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act 1952 with the transfer of the balance of a fund previously set up for the purpose of Part 1 of the War Risks Insurance Act 1939. Any receipts or payments arising by virtue of or in fulfilment of obligations under these Acts are required to be paid into, or out of, the fund.

Statutory background

The Minister of Transport was empowered under the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act 1952 to insure and re-insure ships, aircraft and cargoes against war risks and in certain circumstances other risks. These powers rest with the Secretary of State for Transport.

The Marine Insurance Act 1906 and Salvage Convention 1989 together provide the legislation to cover the Fund's income from salvage and salvage contractors, the main source of income in recent years.

Review of activities

The current agreements with the UK Shipowners Mutual Insurance Associations came into effect on 20 February 1988. The new agreements, which replaced those dating from 1954, took account of the changes in shipping and insurance practices in the intervening years. They afford a 95 per cent re-insurance for British registered merchant ships and larger fishing vessels and 100 per cent re-insurance in respect of small fishing vessels against war risks arising from hostilities involving the UK. In addition to the cover previously available under the 1954 agreements, non-British registered ships may, subject to the Secretary of State's approval, now be re-insured through the Associations, but in time of war only.

No premiums are charged to shipowners unless the Secretary of State considers there to be a particular risk, either generally, or in a specific geographical location. There have not been any receipts of premiums or payments of claims in recent years. Receipts from the sale of hulls of vessels lost during the Second World War and from the salvage of their cargoes are proper to this fund.

It is provided under the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act that any deficiency in the fund shall be met out of monies provided by Parliament, and that any excess over the amount likely to be required to meet liabilities of the fund shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Administration of fund

During the year of account, a total of £4,000 was received for the sale of wrecks and salvage. There have been no claims against the fund during 2006-2007 and there are none outstanding from previous years.

The fund is administered by the Department for Transport.

Robert Devereux
Accounting Officer
Department for Transport

17 September 2007

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

Management and preparation of this account and the underlying accounting transactions are subject to the control environment of the Department for Transport to which the rest of this statement refers. There are no risks identified specifically for this account. In my role as Principal Accounting Officer for the Department for Transport (DfT), I have the responsibility for signing this account.

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Department for Transport's (DfT) policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Government Accounting.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve departmental policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of departmental policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. Subject to the developments during the year described in the following paragraphs, the system of internal control has been in place in the Department for Transport for the year ended 31 March 2007 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with Treasury guidance.

Capacity to handle risk

Leadership on risk management is provided by

- the Department's Management Board, which monitors delivery against key objectives across the DfT family. Significant risks to these objectives are identified by the line and escalated to the Board. In 2006-2007, the Department's Board included the three Directors General in the central Department, the Director General for the DVO Group, the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency and three non-executive members. The Director General for Delivery and Security (Corporate Capability and Resources Group with effect from 1 April 2007) is the Board's 'Risk Management Champion'; and
- an Executive Committee, which seeks to ensure that the resources available to the central Department are managed as effectively as possible to meet identified risks and corporate governance standards.

The Department's Audit Committee monitors and reviews the processes for managing risk, control, governance and assurance across the DfT family, and includes two non-executive members from the DfT family. Each Agency has its own Audit Committee, which fulfils a similar function. The business the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act has not been subject to consideration of any Audit Committee.

Officials consult Ministers regularly on risk. Submissions to Ministers incorporate assessments of key risks, including, for example, to the operation of the transport system, including public perceptions, and to the successful delivery of new policies. DfT Ministers also receive regular reports on key cross-government risks from the Domestic Horizon Scanning Committee.

During 2006-2007, the Department's Risk Improvement Manager identified and implemented actions to improve the identification and mitigation of Board level risks through an improved business planning and risk management reporting process. The Department's Risk Improvement Manager is also responsible for ensuring that appropriate guidance, support and training on risk management is available to staff within the central Department. A programme of risk management workshops and other events was delivered which helped embed risk management concepts into every day departmental business and increase staff capacity to manage risks effectively. A number of improvements and additions were made to the Departmental risk guidance, including additional guidance on project risk management and on partnership risk management.

The risk and control framework

The Treasury published its *Code of Good Practice on Corporate Governance in Central Government Departments* in July 2005; the Department's practices are broadly consistent with the principles set out in this Code.

Director Generals and Heads of Unit (Directors) in the central Department take responsibility for the day to day management of risks in their respective areas of influence. Through regular delivery and financial reporting processes, the Board has set guideline criteria for the impact of risks that it considers should be escalated for its potential attention. The Department also has in place risk registers, and a corporate risk log, which is reviewed by the Board on a bi-monthly basis.

The central Department has in place a Corporate Governance Framework, which includes: the framework of accountabilities; the roles and responsibilities of Agency Chief Executives, Directors General and Directors; and the end of year reporting arrangements. The Framework sets out the responsibilities of Directors General and Directors for risk management. The Framework is supported by delegations from the Accounting Officer to Directors General to maintain effective accountability and management of resources.

The Department has put in place a common framework of management assurances to support a more transparent and consistent approach to the review of systems of internal control.

The Department has a number of well-established programmes for involving the public in managing the risks associated with transport. The Department has also identified its ability to manage major transport disruptions as a key corporate risk, and has in place an active programme, working with partners, to ensure that adequate contingency and emergency plans are maintained, developed and reviewed.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers within the Department who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. I have been advised on the implications of the results of my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Board and the Audit Committee, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement is in place.

The Audit Committee receives summaries of Internal Audit reports and considers the Group Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance. The Chair of the Audit Committee reports regularly to the Board the Committee's views on the effectiveness of internal control.

The Department's Audit and Risk Assurance Division (Internal Audit) operates to standards defined in the Government's *Internal Audit Standard*. It provides an independent opinion to the Accounting Officer on control and governance and the effectiveness of the Department's risk management systems. Regular reports are provided to the Department's management, as well as advice on risk and control issues. The Department's assessment of the control environment is also informed by the programme of external audits and value for money studies undertaken by the National Audit Office.

Director Generals and Directors have reviewed internal control within their areas of responsibility and have completed end of year assurance returns, which the Finance Director has reviewed and summarised in his report to me on stewardship.

Group audit opinion

The Group Head of Internal Audit has provided the following opinion for 2006-2007: 'My overall opinion on risk management, internal control and governance within the DfT Group is as follows

Risk management

I can provide substantial assurance that risk management processes are working well in the DfT Group. The Department and the Agencies have continued during the year to improve their risk management arrangements and embed them as part of their decision making and management processes.

Internal control

I can provide substantial assurance that internal control processes are working well in the DfT Group. The Department and the Agencies have continued during the year to improve their risk management arrangements and embed them as part of their decision making and management processes.

Corporate governance

I can provide substantial assurance that the Department and the Agencies have appropriate structures in place to govern their work. They are largely consistent with Treasury's *Code of Good Practice on Corporate Governance*.

There have been no audit related observations on the business under the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act.

Robert Devereux
Accounting Officer
Department for Transport

17 September 2007

Statement of Accounting Officers responsibilities

Under Section 5(4) of the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act 1952, the Secretary of State for Transport is required to prepare an account for each financial year in the form and on the basis determined by the Treasury. The account is prepared on a cash basis and must properly present the receipts and payments for the financial year and the balance held at the end of the year.

The Treasury has appointed Robert Devereux as the Principal Accounting Officer for the Department for Transport (DfT) with overall responsibility for preparing the DfT's accounts and for transmitting them to the Comptroller and Auditor General. His relevant responsibilities as Accounting Officer, including his responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which he is answerable, and for the keeping of proper records, and for safeguarding assets are set out in the Accounting Officer's Memorandum issued by the Treasury and published in 'Government Accounting' (TSO).

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the *Financial Reporting Manual* prepared by HM Treasury, and in particular to

- observe the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the *Government Financial Reporting Manual* have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Robert Devereux
Accounting Officer
Department for Transport

17 September 2007

The Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Fund for the year ended 31 March 2007 under the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act 1952. These comprise a receipts and payments account and the related note.

Respective responsibilities of the Accounting Officer and Auditor

The Accounting Officer is responsible for preparing the annual report which includes the foreword and the financial statements in accordance with the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act 1952 and Treasury directions made thereunder and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. These responsibilities are set out in the Statement of Accounting Officer's responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, and with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report to you my opinion as to whether the financial statements properly present the receipts and payments of the MAIWR and are properly prepared in accordance with the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Act 1952 and Treasury directions made thereunder. I report to you whether, in my opinion, information given in the foreword, is consistent with the financial statements. I report whether in all material respects the receipts and payments have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and conform to the authorities which govern them.

In addition I also report to you if the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Fund has not kept proper accounting records, or if I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I review whether the statement on internal control reflects compliance with HM Treasury's guidance on the statement on internal control, and I report if it does not. I am not required to consider whether the Accounting Officer's statement on internal control covers all risks and controls or form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Fund's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

I read the foreword and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Basis of audit opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Accounting Officer in the preparation of the financial statements, and whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Fund's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by error, or by fraud or other irregularity and that, in all material respects, the receipts and payments have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I have also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In my opinion

- the financial statements properly present the receipts and payments of the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Fund for the year ended 31 March 2007 and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Marine and Aviation Insurance (War Risks) Fund Act 1952 and directions made thereunder by Treasury; and
- information given within the foreword is consistent with the financial statements.

Audit opinion on regularity

- in all material respects the receipts and payments have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

John Bourn
Comptroller and Auditor General

19 September 2007

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Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2007

	2006-2007	2005-2006
	£	£
Operating receipts		
Insurance Premiums	0	0
Received from salvage contractor – Wrecks and Salvage	4,000	4,981
Operating payments		
Payments against approved claims	0	0
Surplus for the financial year	4,000	4,981
Surplus surrendered to the consolidated fund	4,000	4,981

No statement of balances is given as any excess of receipts over payments after settlement of approved claims is surrendered to the Consolidated Fund.

Notes to the Account

1 This Account is drawn up in a form directed by the Treasury

Robert Devereux
Accounting Officer
Department for Transport

17 September 2007

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DG Ref: B86161 7630RC

Printed in the UK for The Stationery Office Limited
on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
02/08

Published by TSO (The Stationery Office) and available from:

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ISBN 978-0-10-328757-7



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