
Supply Estimates 1991-92

Statement of Excesses

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1991–92

for the year ending 31 March 1992

Statement of Excesses

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Introduction

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. They may be for Votes which are subject to a cash limit (in which case they may involve a breach of the limit) or for Votes which are not so subject.
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.

1991-92
STATEMENT OF EXCESSES

Part I

£131,142,154.72

STATEMENT of the sums required to be voted in order to make good excesses
on certain grants for the year ended 31 March 1992.

Part II Summary of 1991-92 Statement of Excesses by Vote

Vote	Title	£	Amount to be voted £
I – Ministry of Defence			
2	Defence Procurement		
	Excess expenditure	16,417,924.47	
	Add: Deficiency in receipts (subhead Z)	52,590,849.29	69,008,773.76
4	Defence: works services etc		
	Excess expenditure	36,866,505.59	
	Add: Deficiency in receipts (subhead Z)	15,947,191.50	52,813,697.09
5	Defence: ship refitting and repair		
	Excess expenditure	3,930,978.39	
	Add: Deficiency in receipts (subhead Z)	452,936.27	4,383,914.66
III – Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food			
3	Agricultural support and Animal Health		
	Excess expenditure	1,450,213.93	
	Less: Surplus receipts available to be applied as appropriations in aid	235,755.41	1,214,458.52
IX – Home Office			
1	Police, Magistrates' Courts, Probation and Other Grants, England and Wales		
	Excess expenditure	92,881.25	
	Less: Surplus receipts available to be applied as appropriations in aid	91,881.25	1,000.00
X – Lord Chancellor's Department			
2	Legal Aid, etc.		
	Excess expenditure	4,324,802.55	
	Less: Surplus receipts available to be applied as appropriations in aid	605,491.86	3,719,310.69
XVII – Northern Ireland			
1	Northern Ireland Office Administration, Law, Order, Protective and Miscellaneous Services		
	Excess expenditure through lack of Parliamentary Authority	131,798,000.00	
	Less: Net savings available on other expenditure subheads	131,797,000.00	1,000.00
Total			131,142,154.72

Treasury Chambers
16 February 1993

Stephen Dorrell

Part III Explanations

Defence procurement (Class I, Vote 2)

This Vote forms part of the Defence block cash limit covering Class I, Votes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, which in total was overspent. Excess expenditure over the gross Estimate, as increased by the Supplementary Estimates presented in June 1991 and February 1992 (HCs 486 and 226 of 1991–92), amounted to £16,417,924.47. Receipts of classes authorised to be used as appropriations in aid also fell short by £52,590,849.29 of the Estimate, as increased by the Supplementary Estimate, of £534,345,000 thus leaving a net excess of £69,008,773.76. The deficiency was due mainly to a reduction in sales of warship spares and equipment to Royal Dockyards and the delayed receipt of contributions from NATO. The largest overspend arose on subhead J6 (Guided Weapons) because of the earlier than expected payment to a contractor. The authority of Parliament is sought to provide for the excess of expenditure over the net Estimate, amounting to £69,008,773.76 by an Excess Vote.

Defence: works services etc (Class I, Vote 4)

This Vote forms part of the Defence block cash limit covering Class I, Votes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, which in total was overspent. Excess expenditure over the gross Estimate, as increased by the Supplementary Estimate presented in February 1992 (HC 226 of 1991–92), amounted to £36,866,505.59. Receipts of classes authorised to be used as appropriations in aid also fell short by £15,947,191.50 of the Estimate, as decreased by the Supplementary Estimate, of £107,394,000, thus leaving a net excess of £52,813,697.09. The deficiency was due mainly to the delays in NATO funded projects. The main overspending arose on subhead A2 (Property Management). This was due to forecasting difficulties arising from the implementation of dispersed billing by PSA Services and financial management arrangements within the Ministry of Defence. The authority of Parliament is sought to provide for the excess of expenditure over the net Estimate, amounting to £52,813,697.09 by an Excess Vote.

Defence: ship refitting and repair (Class I, Vote 5)

This Vote forms part of the Defence block cash limit covering Class I, Votes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, which in total was overspent. Excess expenditure over the gross Estimate, as increased by the Supplementary Estimates presented in June 1991 and February 1992 (HCs 486 and 226 of 1991–92), amounted to £3,930,978.39. Excesses totalling £10,561,000 arose on two subheads and were partly offset by savings of £6,630,000 on the remaining two subheads. The overspend arose mainly because slippage on plant and machinery did not occur to the extent expected. Receipts of classes authorised to be used as appropriations in aid fell short by £452,936.27 of the Estimate, as decreased by the Supplementary Estimate, of £34,722,000. The authority of Parliament is sought to provide for the excess expenditure over the net Estimate, amounting to £4,383,914.66 by an Excess Vote.

Agricultural support and animal health (Class III, Vote 3)

Expenditure borne on this Vote was not subject to a cash limit. Excess expenditure over the gross Estimate, as increased by the Supplementary Estimates presented in November 1991 and February 1992 (HCs 6 and 226 of 1991–92), amounted to £1,450,213.93. The excess was due mainly to difficulties in accurately forecasting the market price of wool and predicting the number of claimants and average grant payment on the farm and conservation grant scheme. There were, however, surplus receipts of classes authorised to be used as appropriations in aid amounting to £235,755.41. Parliamentary authority is sought to apply these surplus receipts towards meeting the excess, leaving a sum of £1,214,458.52 to be provided by an Excess Vote.

Police, magistrates' courts, probation and other grants, England and Wales (Class IX, Vote 1)

Expenditure borne on this Vote was not subject to a cash limit. Excess expenditure over the gross Estimate, as increased by the Supplementary Estimates presented in November 1991 and February 1992 (HCs 6 and 226 of 1991–92), amounted to £92,881.25. The excess expenditure arose mainly because of greater spending than expected towards the end of the financial year in respect of superannuation transfer values for police officers and firemen returning to their authorities after providing central support service. There were, however, surplus receipts of classes authorised to be used as appropriations in aid amounting to £98,897.04. Parliamentary authority is sought to apply £91,881.25 of these surplus receipts towards meeting the excess, leaving a token sum of £1,000 to be provided by an Excess Vote.

**Legal aid, etc
(Class X, Vote 2)**

Expenditure borne on this Vote was not subject to a cash limit. Excess expenditure over the gross Estimate, as increased by the Supplementary Estimate presented in February 1992 (HC 226 of 1991–92), amounted to £4,324,802·55. The excess was due to expenditure on costs from central funds in magistrates' courts during the final period of the year being greater than had been expected when the Spring Supplementary Estimate was requested. There were, however, surplus receipts of classes authorised to be used as appropriations in aid amounting to £605,491·86. Parliamentary authority is sought to apply these surplus receipts towards meeting the excess, leaving a sum of £3,719,310·69 to be provided by an Excess Vote.

**Northern Ireland Office
administration, law, order
protective and miscellaneous
services
(Class XVII, Vote 1)**

This Vote was subject to a cash limit which was not overspent. However, the word 'prisons' was erroneously omitted from the ambit of the 1992 Spring Supplementary Estimate presented in February 1992 (HC 226 of 1991–92) and the subsequent Appropriation Act. There is therefore no proper Parliamentary authority for the service and the excess arises because payments in the year of £131,860,000 and appropriations in aid of £62,000 applied are ultra vires and cannot be accepted as a proper charge to the Vote. The excess expenditure was £131,798,000 and, as a result of this, the gross surplus was increased to £132,154,000. The authority of Parliament is sought to amend this ambit and to apply £131,797,000 of the surplus towards meeting the excess, leaving a token sum of £1,000 to be provided by an Excess Vote.

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