

STATISTICAL NOTICE TO TABLE 1.15, UKDS 2011

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ISSUES RELATING TO UK DEFENCE STATISTICS 2011 – TABLE 1.15 – CONTRACTS PLACED BY TYPE

Issue

DASA was advised that the data source used to compile statistics published in Table 1.15 (Contracts Placed: By Type) of UK Defence Statistics had ceased during 2010 and that a new data source and table format was required for UK Defence Statistics 2011.

Background

DASA has used Def Form 132 data to populate a table in *UK Defence Statistics* for many years. In 2010 DE&S Commercial Solutions undertook a review of the use made of the Def Form 132 data across the Department and DASA was identified as the only regular user of the consolidated data. It was decided that the Def Form 132 would stop being used from FY 2010/11 and that DASA would investigate using Def Form 57 data to populate Table 1.15 of *UK Defence Statistics*. DASA undertook an analysis of this new data source and concluded that although the Def Form 57 better represents the number of new contracts that have taken place in the year it is not directly comparable to the previously published data, **where the value of new contracts and the value of amendments to existing contracts was shown**, and had concerns about how to show this presentationally.

In 2010 while validating the 2009/10 figures provided from the Def Form 132 it became apparent that there were a number of reasons why the two sets of information did not provide a direct comparison. In particular Def Form 132 data was a) not always 100% complete, b) some of the data was inaccurate and recorded in different reporting periods and c) forms were raised when no amendments or new contracts resulted from the work. To display the two sets of figures on the same table would therefore be impractical and misleading. There is more confidence that the Def Form 57 data gives a more accurate position on the number of new contracts set up during the period because without this form being raised payments against a contract cannot be made by DBS Finance (the MOD's primary bill paying authority).

It has since transpired that despite the conclusion of the 2010 review, data from the Def Form 132 has continued to be collected, although not consolidated into a format that could be used to populate the UKDS table. No comprehensive quality assurance had been conducted on the returns submitted by Project Teams to assess non-response, data quality or coverage. It is possible that the Def Form 132 data will continue to be collected into the future but in a changed format.

Presentational Issues

UK Defence Statistics 2011 will use for the first time data gathered from the Def Form 57 and this will show not only the latest position for 2010/11 but also an historic time series and this overcomes the presentational issues of placing the two sets of data in the same table when they are not directly comparable. Using the Def Form 57 data will mean that the table will be consistent with information provided recently to support analysis to inform the Yellow Book Review, formulation of the Defence Equipment Support & Technology White Paper and the renegotiation of terms and conditions on major defence contracts. Including links to the previous Def Form 132 supported table means that if the Def Form 132 data does continue to be collected and consolidated in the future and remains in a similar format then we could start to update both tables annually.

Using the new method will inevitably result in some changes in the numbers, particularly the split between competitive and non-competitive contracts where previously each amendment to a contract was counted more than once in the Def Form 132 data and where most amendments occurred in competitive contracts. **The new data will also only show the value and number of new contracts.**