Business Plan 2011-2015 HM Treasury

November 2010

This plan will be refreshed annually

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A) Vision

Over the lifetime of the Parliament, the Treasury will aim to secure a rebalanced and resilient economy that will create the conditions for sustainable growth. The Treasury will focus on three priorities:

First, heading the Government's drive to **reduce the structural deficit in a fair and responsible way**. The majority of the reduction will be achieved through savings in public spending announced in the Spending Review. The Treasury will support and challenge departments to ensure the spending settlement sticks and will lead directly on a number of measures. There will be greater transparency in forecasting and public spending. However, this alone will be insufficient to deliver the Coalition's priorities. Departments' business plans will set out how they will reform public services. The tax system will be also be reformed to ensure it remains sustainable, helping to put the public finances on a sounder footing.

Secondly, to create the conditions that secure an economy that is growing sustainably, is more resilient, and is more balanced between public and private sectors and between regions. Reducing the deficit will support these aims, allowing businesses and households to benefit from lower interest rates and reducing the public money diverted to paying interest on the debt. Capital investment will be protected to maintain and develop a national infrastructure that supports growth.

Reforms to taxation will create a more competitive business environment, reducing and simplifying taxation of businesses, while protecting lower income households. Through investment and reforms, the Government will support a low carbon economy. The department will work with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to explore how open and efficient markets can be enhanced and how smaller businesses can gain improved access to funding.

Thirdly, the Treasury will **reform the regulatory framework for the financial sector to avoid future crises.** The world economy has been through an unprecedented shock sparked by a crisis in the financial services sector. Within the UK, the Treasury will reform regulation of the financial sector to ensure it is sustainable and responsible – and able to support the wider economic recovery while remaining competitive. When the timing is right, the department will withdraw from the temporary support provided to sustain the sector. But action is also needed internationally to ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth in the world economy. The Treasury will engage actively in the G20 and the EU to foster greater international cooperation to achieve this. The Treasury will also seek to expand opportunities for trade and promote the UK as a profitable environment for inward investment, including with major emerging markets.

George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer



B) Coalition Priorities

Structural Reform Priorities

1. Reduce the structural deficit in a fair and responsible way

Take action to tackle the deficit in a fair and responsible way, ensure that taxpayers' money is spent responsibly, and get the public finances back on track whilst protecting growth

2. Secure an economy that is more resilient, and more balanced between public and private sectors and between regions

Take action to boost enterprise, support green growth and build a fairer and more balanced economy where we achieve a sustainable distribution of growth across the economy, in particular in regions and sectors

3. Reform the regulatory framework for the financial sector to avoid future financial crises



B) Coalition Priorities

Other major responsibilities

Reduce the structural deficit in a fair and responsible way

Embed strong financial management and governance across government

Secure an economy that is more resilient, and more balanced between public and private sectors and between regions

- Undertake economic and fiscal analysis to ensure that policy decisions are informed by the best possible advice
- Fund the Government's debt and manage its cash and reserves efficiently and effectively
- Pursue strong, sustainable and balanced growth in the EU and globally

Reform the financial sector to avoid future financial crises

 Work with international partners to counter illicit financing, including money laundering and terrorist financing



B) Coalition Priorities

The Department will no longer...

...duplicate work with other government departments - establishing where the work best fits

The Department will...

...set Public Expenditure plans for the whole Parliament

...withdraw from current exceptional activities to support the financial services sector at the appropriate time



C) Structural Reform Plan

The Coalition is committed to a programme of reform that will turn government on its head. We want to bring about a power shift, taking power away from Whitehall and putting it into the hands of people and communities, and a horizon shift, making the decisions that will equip Britain for long term success. For too long citizens have been treated as passive recipients of centralised, standardised services. This Government is putting citizens back in charge, and Structural Reform Plans are part of this shift of power from government to people.

This section sets out how, and when, the Department will achieve the reforms that are needed to make this happen. Structural Reform Plans are key tools for holding departments to account for the implementation of Programme for Government commitments, replacing the old top-down systems of targets and central micromanagement.

Each month, the Department publishes a simple report on its progress in meeting these commitments. These reports are available on our departmental website and on the Number 10 website.

All legislative timings and subsequent actions are subject to Parliamentary timetable and approval.



1. Reduce the structural deficit in a fair and responsible way

(p.1 of 3)

Take action to tackle the deficit in a fair and responsible way, ensure that taxpayers' money is spent responsibly, and get the public finances back on track whilst protecting growth

AC1	TONS		Start	End
1.1	Imple	ement cross-government deficit reduction plan, while delivering a step change in		
	the d	rive for efficiency and value for money and working with departments on wider		
	refor	m to public services		
	i.	Identify £6bn in-year cuts	Completed	
	ii.	Develop an Emergency Budget to set out fiscal envelope	Completed	
	iii.	Coordinate the 2010 Spending Review, to be implemented over a five year period	Completed	
	iv.	Ongoing monitoring of implementation of spending settlements and management of	Apr 2011	Apr 2015
		spending risks		
1.2	Intro	duce an Office for Budget Responsibility		
	i.	Establish an interim independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR)	Completed	
	ii.	Legislate to secure a statutory OBR through the Budget Responsibility and National	Started	Jul 2011
		Audit Bill		
	iii.	Interim OBR supports the first Budget through introduction of transparent and	Completed	
		independent forecasts		
	iv.	OBR makes recommendations to the Chancellor on the functions of a statutory OBR	Completed	-
	V.	OBR role refined in consultation with Treasury ministers and in Parliament	Started	Mar 2011
MIL	<u>ESTO</u>	<u>NES</u>		
	Α	£6bn in-year cuts introduced	Complete	<u>-</u>
	B.	Emergency Budget introduced	Complete	-
	C.	Spending Review measures announced	Complete	-
	D.	Spending Settlements implemented and in-year cuts confirmed	Apr 2011	
	E.	Office for Budget Responsibility Bill passed	Jul 2011	



1. Reduce the structural deficit in a fair and responsible way

(p.2 of 3)

Take action to tackle the deficit in a fair and responsible way, ensure that taxpayers' money is spent responsibly, and get the public finances back on track whilst protecting growth

AC1	<u> </u>		Start	End
1.3	Imple	ement reforms to improve the sustainability of the tax yield		
	i.	Increase the rates of VAT and insurance premium tax	Jan 2011	Jan 2011
	ii.	Ongoing reforms to tax system	Started	Apr 2015
1.4	Cons	ider reform to public service pensions		
	i.	Launch independent commission to undertake fundamental structural review of public	Started	Mar 2011
		service pension provision, led by Lord Hutton		
	ii.	Confirm detailed implementation plan for the increase in employee contributions	Started	Mar 2011
		announced at the Spending Review, in response to the recommendation in the		
		interim report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission		
	iii.	Consider the initial Government response to the final report of the Commission	Mar 2011	Mar 2011
<u> </u>	ESTO			
		Interim report published by Independent Public Service Pensions Commission,	Complete	
		considering the case for short-term savings within the Spending Review 2010 period		
		consistent with the Government's commitment to protect those on low incomes	Mar 2011	
	G.	Recommendations published by Independent Public Service Pensions Commission		



1. Reduce the structural deficit in a fair and responsible way

(p.3 of 3)

Take action to tackle the deficit in a fair and responsible way, ensure that taxpayers' money is spent responsibly, and get the public finances back on track whilst protecting growth

CTION	<u>S</u>	Start	End
5 Inc	rease transparency in the reporting of public spending (please see Section E for		
	ther detail)		
i.	Prepare the COINS raw historic dataset for publication, detailing thousands of items	Completed	-
	of government spending		
ii	i. Fully implement Clear Line of Sight reforms, which ensure that departmental plans,	Started	Apr 2011
	estimates and expenditure outturns are reported in a consistent manner		
ii	ii. Implement Phase 1 of Project OSCAR to develop a replacement for the COINS	Started	Apr 2012
	database and deliver improvements to data quality and process		
i	v. Implement Phase 2 of Project OSCAR to provide enhancements to the new system,	Apr 2012	Apr 2013
	improving flexibility in how public sector financial information can be used		
LEST	<u>ONES</u>		
Н.	COINS historic dataset published in an open and standardised form	Complete	
	Clear Line of Sight reforms fully implemented	Apr 2011	
l.		0 0044	
l. J.	COINS dataset for 2010/11 published	Sep 2011	



2. Secure an economy growing sustainably, more resilient, and balanced between public and private sectors and between regions (p.1 of 7)

TIONS		Start	End
Incre	ase fairness in taxation		
i.	Increase the personal allowance from £6,475 to £10,000, making real terms steps	Apr 2011	Ongoing
	each year towards meeting this as a longer term policy objective		
ii.	Introduce additional measures to raise the tax yield including:	Started	Apr 2011
	a. Increase capital gains tax from 18 to 28% for those liable to income tax at the		
	higher and additional rates		
	b. Change tax rules for furnished holiday lettings to ensure that they are fully		
	compliant with EU law and are better targeted at businesses that are run		
	commercially		
iii.	Reform pension tax relief	Started	Apr 2011
iv.	Review effectiveness of the raising of the stamp duty threshold for first-time buyers	Started	Ongoing
LESTO			
Α.	£1000 cash increase in personal allowance announced for 2011-12	Apr 2011	



2. Secure an economy growing sustainably, more resilient, and balanced between public and private sectors and between regions (p.2 of 7)

AC ⁻	ΓIONS		Start	End
2.2	Incre	ase competitiveness in the taxation system, including by creating the most		
	comp	petitive corporate tax regime in the G20, while protecting manufacturing		
	i.	Reduce corporation tax from 28% to 24% over the course of four financial years	Apr 2011	Apr 2014
	ii.	Reduce the small profits rate of corporation tax to 20%	Apr 2011	Apr 2011
	iii.	Raise secondary (employer) NI threshold by £21 a week above indexation	Apr 2011	Apr 2011
	iv.	Reform Controlled Foreign Company rules and consult with business on taxation of	Started	Apr 2012
		intellectual property		
2.3	Incre	ase simplicity, including by establishing an Office of Tax Simplification to		
	provi	de advice to the Chancellor on simplifying the tax system		
	i.	Establish the Office of Tax Simplification	Completed	-
	ii.	Review tax reliefs to identify those that should be repealed or simplified in order to	Started	Mar 2011
		support the Government's objective for a simpler tax system		
	iii.	Produce initial findings on areas for simplifying the tax system for small businesses,	Started	Mar 2011
		easing administration and reducing uncertainty for small businesses, including review		
		of IR35		
	iv.	Commence further tax simplification reviews	Mar 2011	Mar 2012
MIL	<u>ESTO</u>	<u>NES</u>		
	В.	Office of Tax Simplification established	Complete	
	C.	Consultation on tax policy making	Complete	
	D.	Interim report published on tax reliefs	Nov 2010	
	E.	Final report published on tax reliefs	Mar 2011	
	F.	Interim report published on how to simplify the tax system for small businesses	Mar 2011	



2. Secure an economy growing sustainably, more resilient, and balanced between public and private sectors and between regions (p.3 of 7)

CTIC	NS		Start	End
4 W	Vork	with BIS and other partners to set out a cross-government framework for		
SI	uppo	orting strong, sustainable and balanced growth domestically and in the EU		
	i.	Work with BIS to publish a cross-Government growth framework and develop policies	Started	Mar 2011
		that remove barriers to growth		
	ii.	Publish a Local Growth White Paper, together with BIS and Department for	Completed	-
		Communities and Local Government (CLG), to set out a new approach to locally		
		driven growth		
	iii.	Publish, and update, a National Infrastructure plan setting out the Government's long-	Started	Ongoing
		term priorities for infrastructure in the UK and deliver the actions set out in the plan		
	iv.	Publish Government's response to Financing a private sector recovery consultation	Started	Mar 2011
		and work with BIS to help businesses, particularly SMEs, access suitable financing		
	٧.	Promote a Europe 2020 strategy for faster growth and higher employment	Started	2020
IILES				
G		National Infrastructure Plan 2010 published	Complete	
H		White papers on growth and local growth published	Complete	
I.		Final report into reducing the cost of delivery for major infrastructure projects	Dec 2010	
J	. (Jpdated version of the National Infrastructure Plan published	Dec 2011	



2. Secure an economy growing sustainably, more resilient, and balanced between public and private sectors and between regions (p.4 of 7)

ACTIONS		Start	End
.5 Incre	ase environmental sustainability, including by increasing the proportion of		
rever	nue accounted for by environmental taxes		
i.	Legislate in Finance Bill 11(reforms to the Climate Change Levy) to introduce a	Started	Apr 2012
	carbon price floor mechanism in 2013		
ii.	Work with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and	Started	Mar 2012
	Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to investigate options available		
	to help those in remote rural areas with the cost of fuel		
iii.	Introduce connected sustainability reporting from 2011/12 (bringing together reporting	Started	Mar 2011
	on expenditure and carbon reduction, waste management and the use of finite		
	resources)		
iv.	Explore the potential to replace Air Passenger Duty with a per-flight duty	Started	Mar 2011
٧.	Taking forward the conclusions of the review of the control and use of accumulated	Started	2012
	and future revenues from the Fossil Fuel Levy in Scotland		
2.6 Rev	iew the taxation of non-domiciled individuals	Started	Ongoing
2.7 Wor	k with CLG to deliver the local government resource review, including exploring	Jan 2011	Jul 2011
opti	ons for local authorities to retain locally collected business rate revenues		
AII ECTO	AIF C		
IILESTO	NES		



2. Secure an economy growing sustainably, more resilient, and balanced between public and private sectors and between regions (p.5 of 7)

AC	TIONS		Start	End
2.8	Pron	note growth and poverty reduction in the developing world and its participation		
	in glo	obal affairs		
	i.	Review 'vulture fund' legislation	Started	Jun 2011
	ii.	Work to accelerate the process in relieving Heavily Indebted Poor Countries of their	Started	Apr 2015
		debt		
	iii.	Support reform of global institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in	Started	Apr 2015
		order to increase the involvement of developing countries		
2.9	Cons	sider with the Bank of England how to include housing costs in the CPI inflation	Started	Jan 2012
	targe	et e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e		
2.1) Revi	ew alcohol taxation to tackle problem drinking	Started	Mar 2011
		-		
MIL	ESTO	NES		
	K.	Informal consultation on alcohol taxation	Complete	
	L.	Review whether to extend the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010	Jun 2011	



2. Secure an economy growing sustainably, more resilient, and balanced between public and private sectors and between regions (p.6 of 7)

TIONS		Start	End
1 Deliv	ver value for money from the EU Budget and reform to improve the effectiveness		
of in	ternational institutions		
i.	Make the case for a smaller, better value for money EU Budget in the upcoming	Started	2012
	negotiations for the 2014-2020 Financial Perspective. Make the case for using the		
	European Investment Bank as a mechanism for converting an increasing proportion		
	of EU financing towards loan financing and away from direct grants		
ii.	Make the case for value for money through annual EU Budget negotiations	Ongoing	
iii.	Negotiate between the European Council and the European Parliament, leading to	Started	Nov 2010
	agreement on the Budget for 2011		
iv.	Protect the UK abatement	Ongoing	
LESTO	NES		
<u>- LO I С</u> М.	Adoption of the European Council's negotiating position on the 2011 Budget	Complete	
N.	Adoption of the European Parliament's negotiating position on the 2011 Budget	Complete	
Ο.	European Commission published Budget Review	Oct 2011	



2. Secure an economy growing sustainably, more resilient, and balanced between public and private sectors and between regions (p.7 of 7)

rt reform in the funding of the devolved administrations to encourage arency and accountability Work with the Scotland Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to mplement the relevant proposals of the Calman Commission Produce a government paper examining rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy ncluding examining potential mechanisms for changing the corporation tax rate in Northern Ireland	Started Started	Jul 2011 Dec 2010
arency and accountability Work with the Scotland Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to mplement the relevant proposals of the Calman Commission Produce a government paper examining rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy ncluding examining potential mechanisms for changing the corporation tax rate in Northern Ireland		
mplement the relevant proposals of the Calman Commission Produce a government paper examining rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy ncluding examining potential mechanisms for changing the corporation tax rate in Northern Ireland		
Produce a government paper examining rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy ncluding examining potential mechanisms for changing the corporation tax rate in Northern Ireland	Started	Dec 2010
ncluding examining potential mechanisms for changing the corporation tax rate in Northern Ireland	Started	Dec 2010
Northern Ireland		
Consider with Welch Assembly Consumer out how to take forward the first Light and		
Consider with Welsh Assembly Government how to take forward the final Holtham	Apr 2011	Dec 2011
report's recommendations		
ce measures to improve fairness in public sector pay		
Require anyone paid more than the Prime Minister in the centrally funded public	Completed	-
sector to have their salary signed off by the Treasury		
Launch independent review into fair pay in the public sector, led by Will Hutton, to	Started	Mar 2011
address pay disparity		
Consider the initial Government response to the final report of the review	Mar 2011	Mar 2011
<u> </u>		
easures in place so that anyone paid more than the Prime Minister in the centrally	Complete	
terim report published by Will Hutton Review into fair pay in the public sector	Autumn 2010	
ecommendations published by Will Hutton Review into fair pay in the public sector	Mar 2011	
ac	aunch independent review into fair pay in the public sector, led by Will Hutton, to ddress pay disparity consider the initial Government response to the final report of the review saures in place so that anyone paid more than the Prime Minister in the centrally ided public service has their salary signed off by the Treasury erim report published by Will Hutton Review into fair pay in the public sector	aunch independent review into fair pay in the public sector, led by Will Hutton, to ddress pay disparity consider the initial Government response to the final report of the review Mar 2011 Saures in place so that anyone paid more than the Prime Minister in the centrally ided public service has their salary signed off by the Treasury erim report published by Will Hutton Review into fair pay in the public sector Autumn 2010



3. Reform the regulatory framework for the financial sector to avoid future financial crises (p.1 of 4)

ACT	IONS		Start	End
3.1		olish an independent Banking Commission into banking structural reform, ing with BIS	Started	Sep 2011
3.2		m financial regulation giving the Bank of England control of macro-prudential		
	regul	ation and oversight of micro-prudential regulation		
	i.	Develop and consult on proposals to establish a Financial Policy Committee (FPC) in	Completed	-
		the Bank of England; a Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) as a subsidiary of the		
		Bank; and an independent consumer protection and markets authority (CPMA)		
	ii.	Further policy development, taking into account responses to consultation	Started	Feb 2011
	iii.	Publish further consultation on detailed proposals and draft legislation; refine policy	Feb 2011	Jun 2011
		and legislative proposals		
	iv.	Legislate to implement proposals (anticipated)	Jun 2011	Dec 2012
3.3	Witho	Iraw exceptional public support from financial sector as conditions normalise		
	i.	Reduce Credit Guarantee Scheme maximum upper limit to £83.3bn		Apr 2012
	ii.	Final date for expiry of debt guaranteed under the Credit Guarantee Scheme		Apr 2014
MILI	ESTO			
		EU Capital Requirements Directive agreed	Complete	
		Independent Banking Commission report published	Sep 2011	
	C.	New financial regulatory arrangements in place	Dec 2012	



3. Reform the regulatory framework for the financial sector to avoid future financial crises (p.2 of 4)

AC	TIONS		Start	End
3.4	Imple	ement proposals to tackle unacceptable bonuses in the financial services sector		
	(othe	r regulatory reforms may also support this objective)		
	i.	FSA led revision of remuneration code	Started	Jan 2011
	ii.	Agree and implement EU Capital Requirement Directive 3	Started	Dec 2010
	iii.	Develop other measures with potential to bear down on unacceptable remuneration	Started	Apr 2015
		including consideration of Financial Activities Tax		
3.5	Intro	duce a Bank Levy to ensure that the banking sector makes a fair contribution,		
	whic	h reflects the risks they pose to the financial system and wider economy		
	i.	Consult on the introduction of a Bank Levy	Completed	-
	ii.	Analyse consultation responses and develop final details of Levy scheme	Started	Dec 2010
	iii.	Bank Levy introduced	Jan 2011	Jan 2011
	iv.	Enact legislation as part of Finance Bill 11	Apr 2011	Jul 2011
3.6	Secu	re reform to global financial regulation		
	i.	Deliver the commitments of the G20 to raise and implement new global standards	The timetable	is set internationally
	ii.	Develop, negotiate and implement EU financial services legislation on regulatory		
		reform and completing the single market, in particular on capital, derivatives and		
		crisis management		
MIL	ESTO!	<u>NES</u>		
	D.	Details of Bank Levy published	Complete	
	E.	G20 leaders meeting in Seoul	Nov 2010	
	F.	Implementation of Bank Levy	Jan 2011	



3. Reform the regulatory framework for the financial sector to avoid future financial crises (p.3 of 4)

<u>ACTIONS</u>	Start	End
3.7 Work with the Home Office and other departments to establish the Economic Crime	Started	Ongoing
Agency		
3.8 Deliver a fair and transparent payment for Equitable Life policyholders		
i. Establish the Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments	Started	Jan 2011
ii. Legislate to introduce Equitable Life payment scheme through the Equitable Life	Started	2011
Payments Bill		
3.9 Through the Consumer Financial Education Body (CFEB), deliver a national financial	Started	May 2011
healthcheck and free national financial advice service, funded through a levy on the		
financial services sector		
3.10 Introduce stronger consumer protections (regulatory reform will also support this		
outcome)		
i. Undertake a joint review with BIS of consumer credit and personal insolvency in the	Started	May 2011
UK, including developing measures to address unfair bank charges		•
MILESTONES		
G. Full national financial advice service launched, including face to face advice, and a new annual financial healthcheck	May 2011	
new annual infancial nealincheck		



3. Reform the regulatory framework for the financial sector to avoid future financial crises (p.4 of 4)

<u>IONS</u>	Start	End
Foster diversity in financial services, promote financial mutuals and create a more		
competitive banking industry (the Banking Commission outcome may also promote		
this objective)		
i. Implement legislative reforms enabling financial mutuals greater flexibility to develop	Mar 2011	Dec 2012
and expand, including to:		
a. Complete the passage through Parliament of the Legislative Reform (Industrial		
and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order;		
b. Commence the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit		
Unions Act 2010;		
c. Bring Northern Ireland Credit Unions under FSA regulation;		
d. Enable the greater use of electronic communications by mutuals by making an		
Order under the Electronic Communications Act 2000;		
e. Assess whether changes are required to update building societies legislation.		
<u>STONES</u>		



D) Departmental expenditure

This section sets out how the Department is spending taxpayers' money as clearly and transparently as possible.

We have included a table to show the Department's planned expenditure over the Spending Review period, as agreed with the Treasury. It is split into money spent on administration (including the cost of running departments themselves), programmes (including the frontline), and capital (for instance information systems). As soon as possible, we will include the proportion of this expenditure that goes to the voluntary and community sector and to small businesses.

By April 2011, each department will also publish a bubble chart setting out in detail how its settlement will be allocated for the 2011/12 financial year, across its key programmes and activities.



Table of spending for 2011/12 to 2014/15

This section sets out the department's planned expenditure over the Spending Review period, as agreed with the Treasury.

£bn 123	Baseline 2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Total departmental expenditure allocation	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Administration spending4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Programme spending4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital spending	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spend on voluntary and community sector (%) ⁵	Data to be confirmed				
Value of contracts to small and medium sized enterprises (%)5	Data to be confirmed				

^{1.} Detailed breakdown of these budgets will be published by April 2011

^{2.} Excludes departmental Annually Managed Expenditure

^{3.} Numbers may not sum due to rounding

^{4.} Excludes depreciation

^{5.} To be confirmed at the end of each financial year

Common areas of spend

The indicators below will help the public to judge whether the Department is being run efficiently, and can be compared across departments.

Indicators

Overall:

Cost of operating the department (including procurement, employment cost and property) over time and against projected cost

Number of employees, including breakdown by job type, seniority and their contract type (full time/part time)

Cost of corporate services (including human resources, finance, information and communications technology, communications, procurement) as a percentage of the cost of operating the department

On 3rd party spend:

Property cost per square metre and per employee

Cost of standard desktop computer per employee and number of electronic devices (laptops, desktops, mobile phones etc.) per employee

Value of major areas of spending (office products, travel etc.)

Number and value of major government projects and whether they will be delivered on time and to budget



E) Transparency

Greater transparency across government is at the heart of our commitment to enable the public to hold politicians and public bodies to account, to reduce the deficit and deliver better value for money in public spending.

This section will set out the information that will enable users of public services to choose between providers, and taxpayers to assess the efficiency and productivity of public services, holding them more effectively to account. By publishing a wide range of indicators, we will enable the public to make up their own minds about how departments are performing. We will use transparency to facilitate the choice and democratic accountability which will replace top-down targets and micromanagement.

All the data in this section will be made available free of charge, and we will regularly review whether our published data meets the needs of the public.

This section is published in draft until April 2011 to allow for further consultation.



Information strategy (p. 1 of 4)

To achieve its core objectives, Treasury depends highly on accurate and timely fiscal and economic data; and it publishes a wide range throughout the year. In addition to information published directly by the department, information on the UK economy is also released by other organisations including National Statistics, the Bank of England and the Office for Budget Responsibility. This is consistent with the Treasury's information strategy, which is based on the principles of transparency, timeliness, rigour and objectivity. These principles also extend across the arms length bodies for which Treasury is directly responsible.

Publication of the data allows the success of the Treasury's policies to be evaluated, provides confidence that the state of the economy and public finances are understood, and puts individuals, businesses and other organisations in a position to make decisions based upon the best analysis of public finances and the economy.

The Government's default position is that the public has a right to information and therefore the Treasury will continue to publish data where possible in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. This builds on the Treasury's high performance in fulfilling its Freedom of Information obligations to date www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm. Where data is published, it will be in line with the Public Data Principles www.data.gov.uk/wiki/Public_Data_Principles and registered on data.gov.uk.

Over the Parliament, the Treasury is focusing in particular on providing greater transparency around its structural priorities. The department is also using transparency to improve efficiency and effectiveness; this includes participation in Government-wide initiatives on benchmarking and release of spending data. Where public monies are spent, transparency can encourage value for money and accountability. The department recognises there is scope to go further and has agreed to publish (as far as possible) the data asked for in requests to the data unlocking service run by the National Archives.



Information strategy (p. 2 of 4)

Transparency is an important principle for Government so the Treasury will continue to work to embed best practice and encourage a more open culture. To reinforce this, all work on transparency will be taken forward at Board level by Emma Lindsell, Director of Corporate Services.

Key steps Treasury is taking in support of its structural reform priorities are:

Reduce the Structural Deficit in a Fair and Responsible Way

The interim Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) was established in May 2010 to produce the official economic and fiscal forecasts that underpin the Budget. For the first time, forecast judgements were made independent of ministers. The interim OBR committed to improving transparency, and the bill establishing the permanent OBR requires the OBR to perform its duties transparently. At Budget 2010 the OBR published unprecedented detail on the economic and fiscal forecasts. A full AME forecast was published to the end of the forecast period (2015–16). Details of the labour market (wages and salaries, earnings, employment, public sector employment) and quarterly GDP forecasts were published for the first time. The Chair of the OBR and BRC members were appointed in October 2010 following confirmation by the Treasury Select Committee.

From June 2010, Treasury now publishes historic data from the Combined Online Information System (COINS). This is the most detailed UK public expenditure data ever released, comprising planned departmental spend, outturn and forecast outturn. The historic data currently published are raw and work is underway to make COINS data more accessible to the lay reader.



Information strategy (p. 3 of 4)

Project OSCAR, the Online System for Central Accounting and Reporting, is considering options for the replacement of COINS. Subject to approval, the replacement will improve transparency of public sector financial information, as well as bringing other benefits, including providing greater granularity of data and the ability to analyse better and model information at the centre of government. A concurrent Data and Process Improvement project will improve the quality of reporting through a root and branch review of the definitions, governance, organisation, processes and control of data.

For the first time, the Treasury will be publishing Whole of Government Accounts – full accruals based accounts covering the whole public sector and audited by the National Audit Office. WGA is a consolidation of the accounts of about 1500 bodies from central government, devolved administrations, the health service, local government and public corporations. Accounts will be published for year ended 31 March 2010 in Spring 2011 and then on an annual basis.

From April 2011, the Government will complete full implementation of the Clear Line of Sight reforms. These reforms will make Government's financial reporting simpler and more transparent by better aligning budgets, estimates and resource accounts and rationalising the government spending documents presented to Parliament

Budget 2010 contained, for the first time, an annex containing analysis and data intended to help interested parties understand the impact on households of tax and welfare proposals. Building on this, for the Spending Review, an indicative distributional analysis of public services spend (Resource Department Expenditure Limits (RDEL)), was undertaken and published alongside tax and welfare analysis. For future fiscal events the Government will consider how best to present the impact of changes on households consistent with these aims of transparency.



Information strategy (p. 4 of 4)

Alongside the June Budget the Government published for the first time the document Budget 2010 policy costings providing significantly increased transparency about the methodologies and assumptions used for estimating policy costings. Spending Review 2010 continued this transparency by publishing the document Spending Review 2010 policy costings providing a similar level of detail about Spending Review 2010 AME measure costings.

Reform the financial sector to avoid future financial crises

The Treasury has taken on substantial assets, liabilities and contingencies in response to the financial services crisis. The department discloses these fully in its Annual Report and Accounts, and where appropriate updates this information through Treasury Minutes and the Estimates process.



Input indicators

The indicators set out in this section are just a subset of the data gathered by the Department which will be made transparently available as outlined in the Information Strategy.

The Department will adopt the following input indicators:

Input indicator	When will publication start?	How often will it be published?	How will it be broken down?
Control of Public Spending	April 2011	Annually	National
Cost of supporting formation of tax policy	April 2011	Annually	National
Unit cost of supporting debt management	April 2011	Annually	National
Cost of supporting macroeconomic and fiscal policy that supports the economy	April 2011	Annually	National
Cost of work on international finance and financial stability	April 2011	Annually	National



Impact indicators (p. 1 of 2)

Our impact indicators are designed to help the public to judge whether our policies and reforms are having the effect they want. Further detail on these indicators can be found in our full list of datasets. The Department will adopt the following indicators:

Impact indicator	When will publication start?	How often will it be published?	How will it be broken down?		
Reduce the structural deficit in a fair and responsible way	•	•	•		
Cyclically adjusted current deficit	Ongoing	Annually	National		
Public sector net debt as percentage of GDP	Ongoing	Monthly	National		
Departmental DEL Outturn	Ongoing	Quarterly	National		
Secure an economy more resilient and balanced between public and private sectors and between regions					
GDP per capita [adjusted for inflation]	Ongoing	Annually	National		
Regional employment rate	Ongoing	Monthly	Regional		



Impact indicators (p. 2 of 2)

Impact indicator	When will publication start?	How often will it be published?	How will it be broken down?
Creating a more sustainable financial sector			
Changes to government's financial exposure to the financial sector through its exceptional support measures, notably:	Ongoing	Annually	National



Other data

Further details of datasets published by the Department can be found here:

data.gov.uk/data/publishers/Her%20Majesty%27s%20Treasury.

Key data, which will be particularly useful to help people to judge the progress of structural reforms, and help people to make informed choices, includes:

- Public Sector Finances
- Public Expenditure Outturns
- Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses
- Combined Online Information Systems

Treasury publishes a range of other data, which includes, for example:

- UK Official Holdings of International Reserves
- HM Treasury real time data page for energy consumption

The Treasury's organogram may be found on its website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_hmtgroup_organogram.htm