Proposed removal of the table showing Expenditure with UK Industry and Commerce from the Trade Industry & Contracts Statistical Bulletin

SUMMARY

The MOD currently publishes a table showing Defence expenditure in the UK by industry group in 2 different publications. We are now seeking external users' views on some options for reducing the level of duplication in these publications.

BACKGROUND

A table showing MOD expenditure in the UK by industry group has been published in the Trade Industry & Contracts Statistical Bulletin, and previously in UK Defence Statistics, for many years. The table has always been a year in arrears because of the complex nature of the work required to compile the table (for example 2014/15 data was published in August 2016). In March 2017 the MOD released, for the first time in 10 years, some estimates of MOD expenditure in the UK by region of the UK and estimates of the number of jobs supported by this expenditure. The basis of this new report is the data used to calculate defence expenditure in the UK and included in this new regional report is the same table as that published in the Trade Industry & Contracts bulletin. The new report did however show more timely expenditure for 2015/16, which had not previously been published. This was the result of the streamlining of the process used to identify MOD expenditure by region in the UK. This meant though that the table showing Expenditure with UK Industry and Commerce now appears in two publications.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

Defence Economics are proposing to remove this table from the Trade Industry & Contracts bulletin in the 2017 publication for the following reasons:

a. Publishing this table in the regional bulletin will result in the figures being published around 6 months earlier than the figures have been released previously.
b. To avoid the duplication and administrative burden of revising figures, which will be created by having the same table in 2 different publications.
c. It is felt that the UK regional expenditure figures fit more appropriately into the bulletin showing jobs supported by this expenditure and should remain in the regional bulletin, which has a later publication date because of the need to wait for data supplied by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to inform the calculation on the number of supported jobs.

External users are invited to provide feedback on the following option:
a. *Option 1 – Do nothing*
Continue with the UK industry expenditure data being published in two different publications at different times of the year and to make revisions to the two publications as appropriate to ensure consistency.

b. Option 2 – Remove the Expenditure with UK Industry & Commerce table from the Trade Industry & Contracts bulletin due for publication in August/September 2017. The table would be included in the MOD Regional Expenditure with UK

Industry and Commerce bulletin due for release in early 2018. In the next release the table would be updated with 2016/17 expenditure figures.

TIMINGS

This consultation will run for **four weeks**, 25 July 2017 to 22 August 2017. This consultation complies with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultations.

Once feedback has been received from external users, a final decision will be made about whether to remove the table showing expenditure with UK industry and commerce from the Trade Industry & Contracts bulletin.

RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

After considering the reasons for the proposed change, we now invite the feedback of our external users and are keen to know what impact of the removal of this table will have on you.

Ways to respond

If you have any comments on the proposed changes please send:

By email to: DefStrat-Stat-ESES-PQFOI@mod.gov.uk

By post to:

Defence Economics (Defence Expenditure Analysis)
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West, #6028
Abbey Wood North
Bristol
BS34 8JH

When sending your comments please include contact details (your name and either e-mail address, postal address or telephone number) so that we can follow up if clarification is needed.