



HM Treasury

Financial Reporting Advisory Board Paper

Update on the timeliness and issues coming through from the 2022-23 reporting cycle.

We are providing this paper to the June 2023 FRAB for information; a further update will be brought to the November FRAB 2023 when there is more certainty on overall laying timetables and any qualifications.

Issue:	An update from HM Treasury on the timeliness and reporting issues arising from the 2022-23 reporting cycle. This includes the planned laying timetable of departmental accounts and reporting progress since 2021-22.
Impact on guidance:	N/A
IAS/IFRS adaptation?	N/A
Impact on WGA?	N/A
IPSAS compliant?	N/A
Interpretation for the public-sector context?	N/A
Impact on budgetary regime and Estimates?	N/A
Alignment with National Accounts	N/A
Recommendation:	None – for the Board’s information only
Timing:	Ongoing

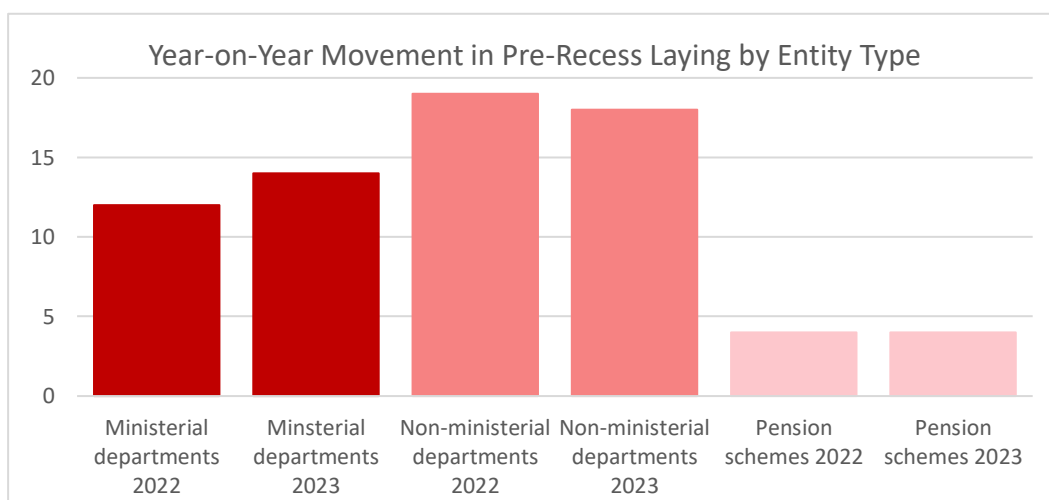
Background

1. This paper provides a summary of the 2022-23 laying timetable as of 22nd June 2023.
2. The administrative deadline for laying 2022-23 ARAs before Parliament is the 30th of June 2023 where possible, and no later than the Parliamentary summer recess. However, a number of departments are expecting to lay their accounts past this deadline.
3. For certain departments, there were specific circumstances which caused significant challenges to meet this deadline. This is principally a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing impact of related delays in previous years, but also due to a variety of other reasons set out in the body of this paper.

Detail

2022-23 laying timetable

4. Thirty-five of the fifty bodies whose ARAs are laid by the Financial Secretary (FST) have informed HM Treasury of their intent to lay before the Parliamentary summer recess. This figure includes fourteen ministerial departments, eighteen non-ministerial departments and four pension schemes.
5. As of 22nd June 2023, one body has laid their ARAs.
6. Whilst the knock-on impact of the pandemic and the late running of prior year accounts is still affecting some departments in meeting an earlier timetable for laying ARAs, there are a variety of other issues that is similarly impacting the ability of some departments to lay before recess. Several of these issues that also affected the 2021-22 reporting cycle and include:
 - Preparation-driven delays, such as capacity of preparers, complex accounting issues and reporting requirements
 - Local government-related issues, primarily delays in assurances around the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Department for Digital, Communications, Media and Sport (DCMS) include a share of the LGPS liability in their Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as they have bodies in their accounting boundary whose employees are part of the LGPS. MoJ and DCMS' audit completions are therefore dependent on assurances over pension liabilities in respect of the LGPS, which has been heavily affected by delays in local government audit.
7. To accelerate laying dates, the NAO has been prioritising a staged recovery for the main departments affected by post-pandemic delays. The NAO has also been focussing on working with departments to facilitate the removal of qualifications, such as those affecting Defra.
8. Full details of planned laying dates and links to departmental ARAs can be found [here](#), with a summary year-on-year table found in [Appendix 1](#).
9. The year-on-year movement below shows a slight increase in ministerial departments laying pre-recess, as well as a slight decrease in the amount of non-ministerial departments and no change in the pension schemes laying pre-recess:



Appendix 1:

Note: This appendix has been removed as it contains information that is not yet publicly available.