

# Open Budget Survey 2021

Questionnaire

Trinidad and Tobago

May 2022

# Country Questionnaire: Trinidad and Tobago

PBS-1. What is the fiscal year of the PBS evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

*Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."*

Answer:

FY 2020-21

Source:

Comment:

Fiscal Year runs from 1st October to the 30th September

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-2. When is the PBS made available to the public?

*Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.*

*The OBS methodology requires that for a PBS to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration. If the PBS is not released to the public at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the PBS.*

Answer:

d. The PBS is not released to the public, or is released less than one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced to the legislature

Source:

n/a

Comment:

A pre-budget statement is not produced

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-3a. If the PBS is published, what is the date of publication of the PBS?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Not Produced

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the PBS.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It is not issued

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-4. If the PBS is published, what is the URL or weblink of the PBS?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

PBS-5. If the PBS is published, are the numerical data contained in the PBS available in a machine readable format?

*Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) or HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>*

*Option "d" applies if the PBS is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.*

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

Comment:

A pre-budget statement is not produced

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

PBS-6a. If the PBS is not publicly available, is it still produced?

*If the PBS is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question PBS-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.*

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question PBS-2)*

*Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

*Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.*

*Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.*

*Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.*

*If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.*

Answer:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree  
Comments: No traces of a PBS

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

PBS-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question PBS-6a, please specify how you determined whether the PBS was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

*If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question PBS-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

While there is no document that is categorically a pre-budget statement, a Call Circular is produced and made public. This document is a request to Ministries, Departments and other Government agencies to submit draft estimates of their expected revenue and expenditure for the coming financial year to the Budget Division of the Ministry of Finance. It is based on the fiscal "stance" of the cabinet usually expressed in the manifesto and in the case of the budget, was also guided by the Government's National Development Strategy (2030). The Call Circular details the guidelines for which submissions of expenditures and revenues are to be determined and submitted.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree Check <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Call-Circular-2020-web.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-7. If the PBS is produced, please write the full title of the PBS.

*For example, a title for the Pre-Budget Statement could be "Proposed 2021 State Budget" or "Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Plan and Budget for 2020/21."*

*If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the PBS?

*While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.*

Answer:  
b. No

Source:  
N/A

Comment:  
N/A

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

EBP-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EBP evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

*Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."*

Answer:  
FY 2020-21

Source:

Comment:  
Trinidad and Tobago's Fiscal Year is from the 1st October to the 30th September

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree  
Comments: Check <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Call-Circular-2020-No.1-March-18-2020.pdf>

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

EBP-1b. When is the EBP submitted to the legislature for consideration?

*Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.*

Answer:  
05/10/2020

Source:  
BUDGET STATEMENT 2021  
Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Bill 2020  
Available October 10th 2020 (Gazette Date)  
<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/b2020h11g.pdf>

See also: <http://www.news.gov.tt/content/october-5-2020-budget-day#.YHXTSGRKhaR>

Comment:

Trinidad and Tobago's Fiscal Year is from the 1st October to the 30th September

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree, but the Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) was apparently released on October the 8th From:

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/b2020h11g.pdf> Legal Supplement Part C to the "Trinidad and Tobago Gazette", Vol. 59, No. 175, 8th October, 2020 No. 11 of 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-2. When is the EBP made available to the public?

*Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.*

*The OBS methodology requires that for an EBP to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public while the legislature is still considering it and before the legislature approves (enacts) it. If the EBP is not released to the public before the legislature approves it, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EBP.*

*The OBS definition of an Executive's Budget Proposal is a document(s) that (i) the executive submits to the legislature as a formal part of the budget approval process and (ii) the legislature either approves or on which it approves proposed amendments.*

*The OBS will treat the Executive's Budget Proposal as "Not Produced," in the following cases:*

- *The executive does not submit the draft budget to the legislature; or*
- *The legislature receives the draft budget but does not approve it or does not approve recommendations on the draft budget;*
- *The legislature rejects the draft budget submitted by the executive, but the executive implements it without legislative approval; or*
- *There is no legislature, or the legislature has been dissolved.*

Answer:

c. Less than two months in advance of the budget year, but at least in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Bill 2020

Available October 10th 2020 (Gazette Date)

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/b2020h11g.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: All those documents are released at the beginning of October

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-3a. If the EBP is published, what is the date of publication of the EBP?

*Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.*

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.*

*Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.*

*In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their date of publication.*

Answer:  
05/10/2020

Source:  
BUDGET STATEMENT 2021  
Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Bill 2020  
Available October 10th 2020 (Gazette Date)  
<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/b2020h11g.pdf>

Comment:  
The Budget Statement was read by the Finance Minister, Colm Imbert, at parliament on October 5th, 2020. The supporting documents to the Budget Statement were all published online on October 5th, 2020.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree  
Comments: I agree. Presented on October 5th by Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

EBP-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EBP.

*If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:  
Trinidad and Tobago's Budget documents are all published on the day of the Budget presentation and made available in both hard and soft copies. The dates of publication are also posted on the Ministry of Finance's website as all documents are laid in Parliament. All budget documents are made available and published on the date of the budget presentation.

Source:  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/2020/10/05/national-budget-2021/>

Comment:  
Trinidad and Tobago's Budget documents are all published on the day of the Budget presentation and made available in both hard and soft copies. The dates of publication are also posted on the Ministry of Finance's website as all documents are laid in Parliament. All budget documents are made available and published on the date of the budget presentation.

The publication dates of the documents are indicated on the Ministry of Finance Website

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:



EBP-4. If the EBP is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EBP?

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.*

*In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their URL or weblink.*

Answer:

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

Source:

Estimates

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

Supporting Documents;

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/State-Enterprise-Investment-Programme-2021.pdf>

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Social-Sector-Investment-Programme-2021-1.pdf>

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-Tobago.pdf>

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. All the documents available and accounted for

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-5. If the EBP is published, are the numerical data contained in the EBP or its supporting documents available in a machine readable format?

*Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.*

*Option "d" applies if the EBP is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.*

Answer:

c. No

Source:

All budget documents are in PDF formats

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: All the documents are released as PDF only. No data available in excel or similar format.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-6a. If the EBP is not publicly available, is it still produced?

*If the EBP is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EBP-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.*

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EBP-2).*

*Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

*Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.*

*Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.*

*Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.*

*If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.*

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EBP-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EBP was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

*If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EBP-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-7. If the EBP is produced, please write the full title of the EBP.

*For example, a title for the Executive's Budget Proposal could be "Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for BY 2020-21, produced by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development."*

If there are any supporting documents to the EBP, please enter their full titles in the comment box below.

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021 Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

Comment:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Bill 2020

Available 05th October 2020

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/b2020h11g.pdf>

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Right. There is an also a header on the cover stating: " Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago"

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EBP?

*While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.*

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

A Guide to the Budget 2021

Prepared by the Financial Security Unit Office of the Parliament 2020.

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Comment:

This document provides guidance to understanding a budget and draws reference to past years performance and the current budgeted year. It also provides expenditure and revenue information and visualizations of each as well as a summary of development programmes and performance targets. It defines relevant terms and describes the content of budget documents.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. It is not exactly a comprehensive "Citizen's version", but more like a combined "manual-overall overview", providing general information and guidelines to understand public budget and also most common data on the 2021 Budget. All in all, a quite useful document.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

*Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."*

Answer:

FY 2020-21

Source:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020  
Assented to 28th October 2020  
<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: From October 1st 2020 to September 30th 2021

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-1b. When was the EB approved (enacted) by the legislature?

*Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.*

Answer:

28/10/2020

Source:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020  
Assented to 28th October 2020  
<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Comment:

Passed in the House of Representatives 22nd October 2020;  
Passed in the Senate 27th October 2020;  
Date of Assent 28th October 2020

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: "for the financial year ending on the 30th day of September, 2021. This Act is deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of October, 2020!

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-2. When is the EB made available to the public?

*Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.*

*The OBS methodology requires that for an EB to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public three months after the budget is approved by the legislature. If the EB is not released to the public at least three months after the budget is approved by the legislature, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EB.*

Answer:

a. Two weeks or less after the budget has been enacted

Source:

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=28&id=893>

Comment:

First reading of the Bill October 5th, Date of Assent October 28th 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Published in Gazette on 08-Oct-2020, Vol. 59, No. 175 All the documents related to the Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Bill, 2020 are available at: <http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=28&id=893>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-3a. If the EB is published, what is the date of publication of the EB?

*Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document. Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.*

*Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.*

Answer:

30/10/2020

Source:

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=28&id=893>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: I am not sure, but what I got as the publication date for the Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) is 29th October 2020

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf> Legal Supplement Part A to the "Trinidad and Tobago Gazette", Vol. 59, No. 184, 29th October, 2020 Maybe there is some misunderstanding with the dates

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per the researcher's comment on question EB-3b, this date was obtained through a check of the last modified date of the page hosting the EB file (30 Oct 2020). The existing response is therefore maintained.

EB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EB.

*If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

Based on a javascript check of the last modified date of the webpage hosting the pdf of the EB

Source:

Bills of passage are usually debated and passed by November 1st to ensure the budget distributions are made.

Comment:

Bills of passage are usually debated and passed by November 1st to ensure the budget distributions are made.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: Ok. The consultant is right on the "javascript check of the last modified date of the webpage hosting the pdf of the EB". However the pdf available at <http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf> was also printed and published as a Legal Supplement Part A to the "Trinidad and Tobago Gazette", Vol. 59, No. 184, 29th October, 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

The Peer Reviewer's comment is well noted. While the EB may have been published in hard copy on 29 October, the guidelines for EB-3a and EB-3b refer to the online publication of the document.

EB-4. If the EB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EB?

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.*

Answer:

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Source:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020

Assented to 28th October 2020

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf> Act No. 24 of 2020 AN ACT to provide for the service of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ending on the 30th day of September, 2021

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

EB-5. If the EB is published, are the numerical data contained in the EB available in a machine readable format?

*Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>*

*Option "d" applies if the EB is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.*

Answer:

c. No

Source:

Comment:

Available in pdf format only.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The documents are available in PDF format

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-6a. If the EB is not publicly available, is it still produced?

*If the EB is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EB-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.*

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EB-2)*

*Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

*Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.*

*Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.*

*Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.*

*If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.*

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020

Assented to 28th October 2020

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

EB-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EB-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

*If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EB-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion:

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

EB-7. If the EB is produced, please write the full title of the EB.

*For example, a title for the Enacted Budget could be "Appropriation Act n. 10 of 2018."*

*If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020

Source:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020 of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Assented to 28th October 2020  
<http://www.tparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Comment:

May also be referred to as Act 24 of 2020 "AN ACT to provide for the service of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ending on the 30th day of September, 2021:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also this Act may be cited as "the Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act, 2020" (short title)

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

EB-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EB?

*While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the*



executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: What is available is the "GUIDE TO THE BUDGET 2021" issued by the FINANCIAL SCRUTINY UNIT - OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT OCTOBER, 2020 with some overall figures <http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

CB-1. What is the fiscal year of the CB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

*Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."*

*If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for each CB please indicate the document the CB simplifies/refers to, and the fiscal year.*

Answer:

FY 2020-21

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: for the financial year ending on the 30th day of September, 2021

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

CB-2a. For the fiscal year indicated in CB-1, what is the public availability status of the CB?

*If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document (Executive's Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget) you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its public availability status.*

*Remember that publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.*

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology  
Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

*Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.*

*Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.*

*Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.*

Answer:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

A Guide to the Budget 2021

Prepared by the Financial Security Unit Office of the Parliament 2020.

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Comment:

This document provides guidance to understanding a budget and draws reference to past years performance and the current budgeted year. It also provides expenditure and revenue information and visualizations of each as well as a summary of development programmes and performance targets.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree, however the CB available at <http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf> has only overall figures for revenues/expenditures

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Agreed with Peer Reviewer. The identified document is produced by researchers of the Parliament's Financial Scrutiny Unit and not the executive primarily. As such while it does elucidate some information on the Budget targeted at the general public, given that it is not produced by the executive, then it may not be considered a citizen's budget.

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's "Response to Review," the existing response of "e" is revised to "d," as the Citizens Budget is considered to be not produced.

CB-2b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question CB-2a, please specify how you determined whether the CB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

*If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question CB-2a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

There are budget summaries and guides but cannot be classified as Citizen's Budgets

Source:

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/3013.pdf>

A Guide to the Budget 2021

Prepared by the Financial Security Unit Office of the Parliament 2020.

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Comment:

The Financial Scrutiny Unit of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago provide summaries of the expenditure, divisions and projects under the various Heads of Expenditure which are updated over a period of time (not all heads are summarized together). They are intended to demystify the budget documents.

A Guide to the Budget 2021 provides guidance to understanding a budget and draws reference to past years but not the current budgeted year in particular.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Those documents are useful but limited, because only present overall figures.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

CB-3a. If the CB is published, what is the date of publication of the CB?

*Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.*

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.*

*Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.*

*If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its dates of publication.*

Answer:

00/00/0000

Source:

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Comment:

A javascript verification of the last modified date of the webpage hosting the CB displays a date of 12 October 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The cover states "October 2020"

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's "Response to Review" at indicator CB-2a, the existing response of "12/10/2020" is revised to a blank response, as the Citizens Budget is considered to be not produced.

CB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the CB.

*If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's "Response to Review" at indicator CB-2a, the existing response of "A javascript verification of the last modified date of the webpage hosting the CB displays a date of 12 October 2020." is revised to "n/a," as the Citizens Budget is considered to be not produced.

CB-4. If the CB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the CB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its URL or weblink.

Answer:

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Source:

A Guide to the Budget 2021

Prepared by the Financial Security Unit Office of the Parliament 2020.

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Comment:

This document provides guidance to understanding a budget and draws reference to past years performance and the current budgeted year. It also provides expenditure and revenue information and visualizations of each as well as a summary of development programmes and performance targets.

Summaries for some Heads of Expenditure but not all are also provided at

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's "Response to Review" at indicator CB-2a, the existing response of

"<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>" is revised to a blank response, as the Citizens Budget is considered to be not produced.

CB-5. If the CB is produced, please write the full title of the CB.

*For example, a title for the Citizens Budget could be "Budget 2020 People's Guide" or "2021 Proposed Budget in Brief: A People's Budget Publication."*

*If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

*If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for the other CB, indicate the document the CB refers to and, next to it, its full title.*

Answer:

n/a

Source:

A Guide to the Budget 2021

Prepared by the Financial Security Unit Office of the Parliament 2020.

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's "Response to Review" at indicator CB-2a, the existing response of "A Guide to the Budget 2021" is revised to "n/a," as the Citizens Budget is considered to be not produced.

CB-6. If the CB is produced, please indicate which budget document it corresponds to.

*If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and which budget document it simplifies.*

Answer:

n/a

Source:

A Guide to the Budget 2021

Prepared by the Financial Security Unit Office of the Parliament 2020.

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/3013.pdf>

Comment:

The Financial Scrutiny Unit of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago also provides summaries of the expenditure, divisions and projects under the various Heads of Expenditure which are updated over a period of time (not all heads are summarized together). They are intended to demystify the budget documents.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also includes information from: 2020 REVIEW OF THE ECONOMY <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf> Public Sector Investment Programme 2021 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's "Response to Review" at indicator CB-2a, the existing response of "Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021 Available on the internet October 5th 2020 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf> Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021 Available on the internet October 5th 2020 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf> Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021 Available on the internet October 5th 2020 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>" is revised to "n/a," as the Citizens Budget is considered to be not produced.

IYRs-1. What is the fiscal year of the IYRs evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

*Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."*

Answer:

FY 2019-20

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-2. When are the IYRs made available to the public?

*Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.*

*The OBS methodology requires that for IYRs to be considered publicly available, IYRs must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends. If at least seven of the last 12 monthly IYRs, or at least three of the last four quarterly IYRs are not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the IYRs.*

Answer:

d. The IYRs are not released to the public, or are released more than three months after the period covered

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: However, it should be considered the document 2020 REVIEW OF THE ECONOMY published by the Ministry of Finance which includes figures on Central Government Fiscal Operations <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well received. However, per the question guidelines, reports must be issued at least every quarter to qualify as IYRs.

IYRs-3a. If the IYRs are published, what are the dates of publication of the IYRs?

*Specifically: if quarterly In-Year Reports are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least three of the last four IYRs that were publicly available. If monthly IYRs are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least seven of the last 12 IYRs that were publicly available.*

*Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.*

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.*

*Please enter the date in the following format: "DD Month YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05 September 2020. If the document is not published or not produced, please mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Note: however the Review of the Economy 2020 was published digitally on 5th October [https://www.google.com/search?q=Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf&rlz=1C1GCEU\\_enPE879PE879&oq=Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf+&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i60.3461j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf&rlz=1C1GCEU_enPE879PE879&oq=Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf+&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i60.3461j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8) <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf> However, it must be clear this document has only some overall figures

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the IYRs.

*If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Google search looking for "Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf" The first result was "Review of the Economy 2020 5 Oct 2020" However, it must be clear this document has only some overall figures

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Please see the IBP Staff comment for question IYRs-2; the Review of the Economy 2020 does not qualify as IYRs.

IYRs-4. If the IYRs are published, what is the URL or weblink of the IYRs?

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.*

*Researchers should provide the weblink to the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the weblinks to older IYRs.*

*If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.*

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The document "Review of the Economy 2020" has some overall figures, but it is not a comprehensive IYR <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-5. If the IYRs are published, are the numerical data contained in the IYRs available in a machine readable format?

*Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>*

*Option "d" applies if the IYRs are not publicly available, therefore their machine readability cannot be assessed.*

Answer:  
d. Not applicable

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In the case of the document "Review of the Economy 2020" it is in pdf format

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-6a. If the IYRs are not publicly available, are they still produced?

*If the IYRs are not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question IYRs-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.*

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question IYRs-2).*

*Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

*Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.*

*Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.*

*Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.*

*If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.*

Answer:  
d. Not produced at all

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question IYRs-6a, please specify how you determined whether the IYRs were produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

*If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question IYRs-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:  
No In Year Reports are issued during the budget execution. Processing, Recording, Reporting and Revenue collection does not involve the production of in year reports. Rather, payments must be supported by documents which are scrutinized by different levels of officers. According to the "Accounting Manual" records are maintained in the form of vouchers, schedule of accounts, vote books, expenditure notification, abstract of payments etc. Appropriation officers prepare appropriation accounts showing actual expenditure compared with estimates which must be submitted to the



Auditor General four months AFTER the end of each financial year, i.e by January 31st.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

IYRs-7. If the IYRs are produced, please write the full title of the IYRs.

*For example, a title for the In-Year Report could be "Budget Monitoring Report, Quarter 1" or "Budget Execution Report January-March 2020."*

*If In-Year Reports are not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

*Researchers should provide the full title of the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the full titles of older IYRs.*

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

IYRs-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the IYRs?

*While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.*

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Comments: The "2020 Review of the Economy" released by the Ministry of Finance includes some overall figures, but it is not a proper IYR.

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

MYR-1. What is the fiscal year of the MYR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

*Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."*

Answer:  
FY 2019-20

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

MYR-2. When is the MYR made available to the public?

*Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.*

*The OBS methodology requires that for an MYR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends (i.e., three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year). If the MYR is not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the MYR.*

Answer:  
c. More than nine weeks, but less than three months, after the midpoint

Source:  
2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Produced JUNE 12, 2020 made available June 12th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

Comment:  
Given that the usual Mid Year Report was accompanied by a supplemental appropriation the requirements of a Mid Year Review can be said to be met hence the change in response from the previous years of study.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree  
Comments: I agree with the consultant. The Mid Year Review opens with the following statement: "Madam Speaker, I rise to present the 2020 Supplementary Appropriation and Mid-Year Budget Review. I am presenting this review in the context of the extra-ordinary circumstances brought about by the Novel Coronavirus or Covid-19 Pandemic and the sensitive framework for the re-opening the economy."

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

MYR-3a. If the MYR is published, what is the date of publication of the MYR?

*Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.*

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.*

*Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.*

Answer:  
12/6/2020

Source:  
2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Produced JUNE 12, 2020 made available June 12th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

Comment:  
Given that the usual Mid Year Report was accompanied by a supplemental appropriation the requirements of a Mid Year Review can be said to be met hence the change in response from the previous years of study.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

MYR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the MYR.

*If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:  
The presentation of Mid Year Review was televised and aired on other forms of media live on the date it was presented and produced.

Source:  
2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Produced JUNE 12, 2020 made available June 12th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

Comment:  
Given that the usual Mid Year Report was accompanied by a supplemental appropriation the requirements of a Mid Year Review can be said to be met hence the change in response from the previous years of study.

In addition, a javascript verification of the last modified date of the weblink in the "Source field" confirms the date of 12 June.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree  
Comments: The date (June 12th) is included in the cover: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

MYR-4. If the MYR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the MYR?

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.*

Answer:

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Produced JUNE 12, 2020 made available June 12th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

Comment:

Given that the usual Mid Year Report was accompanied by a supplemental appropriation the requirements of a Mid Year Review can be said to be met hence the change in response from the previous years of study.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-5. If the MYR is published, are the numerical data contained in the MYR available in a machine readable format?

*Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.*

*Option "d" applies if the MYR is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.*

Answer:

c. No

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Produced JUNE 12, 2020 made available June 12th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

Comment:

Only available in pdf format.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-6a. If the MYR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the MYR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question MYR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question MYR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Produced JUNE 12, 2020 made available June 12th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question MYR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the MYR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question MYR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-7. If the MYR is produced, please write the full title of the MYR.

For example, a title for the Mid-Year Review could be "Semi-annual Budget Performance Report, FY 2019/20" or "Mid-Year Report on the 2020 National Budget."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Produced JUNE 12, 2020 made available June 12th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The full title (including heading) is: Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago 2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JUNE 12, 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the MYR?

*While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.*

Answer:

b. No

Source:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-1. What is the fiscal year of the YER evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

*Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."*

Answer:

FY 2019-20

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

YER-2. When is the YER made available to the public?

*Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.*

*The OBS methodology requires that for an YER to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than one year after the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the YER is not released to the public within one year after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the YER.*

Answer:

d. The YER is not released to the public, or is released more than 12 months after the end of the budget year

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Comments: I partially agree. Although the "Review of the Economy 2020" is not a detailed specific YER it includes a section on Central Government Operations presenting some overall figures and analysis for the fiscal 2020 Budget (Oct 2019 - Sep 2020) including revenues expenditures, balance and financing.

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

YER-3a. If the YER is published, what is the date of publication of the YER?

*Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document. Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.*

*Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.*

Answer:

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the YER.

*If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In the case of "Review of the Economy 2020", the document was available as of October 5th  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/2020/10/05/review-of-the-economy-2020-2/> [https://www.google.com/search?q=REVIEW+OF+THE+ECONOMY+2020+GOVERNMENT+OF+THE+REPUBLIC+OF+TRINIDAD+AND+TOBAGO+RESETTING+THE+ECONOMY+FOR+GROWTH+AND+INNOVATION&rlz=1C1GCEU\\_enPE879PE879&oq=REVIEW+OF+THE+ECONOMY+2020+GOVERNMENT+OF+THE+REPUBLIC+OF+TRINIDAD+AND+TOBAGO+RESETTING+THE+ECONOMY+FOR+GROWTH+AND+INNOVATION&aqs=chrome..69i57.998j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=REVIEW+OF+THE+ECONOMY+2020+GOVERNMENT+OF+THE+REPUBLIC+OF+TRINIDAD+AND+TOBAGO+RESETTING+THE+ECONOMY+FOR+GROWTH+AND+INNOVATION&rlz=1C1GCEU_enPE879PE879&oq=REVIEW+OF+THE+ECONOMY+2020+GOVERNMENT+OF+THE+REPUBLIC+OF+TRINIDAD+AND+TOBAGO+RESETTING+THE+ECONOMY+FOR+GROWTH+AND+INNOVATION&aqs=chrome..69i57.998j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-4. If the YER is published, what is the URL or weblink of the YER?

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.*

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Although it is not a YER, the "Review of the Economy 2020" presents some overall figures: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Government Reviewer



Opinion:

YER-5. If the YER is published, are the numerical data contained in the YER available in a machine readable format?

*Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>*

*Option "d" applies if the YER is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.*

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In any case, the "Review of the Economy 2020" is in pdf format

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-6a. If the YER is not publicly available, is it still produced?

*If the YER is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question YER-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.*

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question YER-2)*

*Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

*Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.*

*Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.*

*Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.*

*If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.*

Answer:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question YER-6a, please specify how you determined whether the YER was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

*If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question YER-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-7. If the YER is produced, please write the full title of the YER.

*For example, a title for the Year-End Report could be "Consolidated Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2020" or "Annual Report 2019 Published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The closest thing available to a YER is the "Review of the Economy 2020"

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the YER?

*While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.*

Answer:  
b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

AR-1. What is the fiscal year of the AR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

*Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."*

Answer:  
FY 2018-19

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)  
Available 29th May 2020  
<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

AR-2. When is the AR made available to the public?

*Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.*

*The OBS methodology requires that for an AR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the AR is not released to the public at least 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the AR.*

Answer:  
b. 12 months or less, but more than six months, after the end of the budget year

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)  
Available 29th May 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-3a. If the AR is published, what is the date of publication of the AR?

*Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.*

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.*

*Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.*

Answer:

29/05/2020

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th May 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the AR.

*If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

Via a javascript verification of the date of last modification of the webpage hosting the AR.

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th May 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The AR document available at <http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf> states in the cover the date: 29TH APRIL, 2020

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

AR-4. If the AR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the AR?

*Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.*

Answer:

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th May 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-5. If the AR is published, are the numerical data contained in the AR available in a machine readable format?

*Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>*

*Option "d" applies if the AR is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.*

Answer:

c. No

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th May 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Document is available as a pdf file.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: PDF format

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-6a. If the AR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

*If the AR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question AR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.*

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question AR-2).*

*Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

*Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.*

*Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.*

*Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.*

*If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.*

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th May 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question AR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the AR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

*If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question AR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."*

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-7. If the AR is produced, please write the full title of the AR.

For example, a title for the Audit Report could be "Annual General Reports of the Controller and Auditor General." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th May 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL (Heading) REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL on the PUBLIC ACCOUNTS of the REPUBLIC of TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO for the Financial Year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019) 29TH APRIL, 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the AR?

*While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.*

Answer:

b. No

Source:

N/A

Comment:

N/A

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-1a. Are there one or more websites or web portals for disseminating government fiscal information? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

*GQ-1a asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where fiscal information can be found. For example, in New Zealand the Treasury website (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/>) hosts important budget-related information, including the Pre-Budget Statement, the Executive's Budget Proposal, the Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, the Mid-Year Review, and the Year-End Report. In addition, New Zealand's Parliamentary Counsel Office (<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>) posts the Enacted Budget while the Controller and Auditor-General website (<http://www.oag.govt.nz/>) publishes the annual Audit Report. The New Zealand researcher would provide the links to each of these sites. Other countries have developed portals that include fiscal*

information, though not in the "documents" format. For example, these portals have been created by Mexico (<https://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/>) and Brazil (<http://www.portaltransparencia.gov.br/>). Some countries have both a website and a portal. The Brazilian government, for example, apart from the Transparency Portal, has a dedicated website for the federal budget, where all key documents and other information can be found ([www.orcamentofederal.gov.br](http://www.orcamentofederal.gov.br)). Researchers should include details about all of the relevant websites and/or portals that can be used to access budget information.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/tag/budget-2021/>

<http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/latest-reports>

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92>

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=28>

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=29>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/data-centre>

Comment:

The Ministry of Finance website is the primary source of Budget Documents; The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago also produces fiscal information concerning economic performance in quarterly reports and bulletins. The Parliament Website also provides summaries of budgeted allocations for multiple years per head of expenditure. The information is simplified and summarized by the Financial Scrutiny Unit which prepares summaries on each Head of Expenditure.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-1b. On these websites/portals, can revenue and/or expenditure data for the current fiscal year be downloaded as a consolidated, machine readable file (or set of files)? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation. For more information on machine readability, see: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

*GQ-1b, GQ-1c, and GQ-1d ask about whether governments publish specific types of content on their websites/portals: (a) consolidated files that contain disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure information for the current fiscal year; (b) consolidated files that contain disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure information for multiple years in consistent formats; and (c) infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis. Researchers should provide the links to relevant webpages and some explanations of what they contain.*

Answer:

a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Source:

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/selected-aggregates/cen-gov-aggregates>

Comment:

Aggregates including Central Government Fiscal Operations are provided on a quarterly basis of the calendar year. This information is downloadable. It includes: Central Government Current Revenue Central Government Capital Revenue; Central Government Total Expenditure; Central Government Current Expenditure; Central Government Capital Expenditure and Net Lending; Current Account Surplus (+)/ Deficit(-); Overall Fiscal Balance

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/selected-aggregates/cen-gov-aggregates>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/data-centre/public-finance-annual>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/data-centre/public-finance-fiscal>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/data-centre/debt-monthly>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Note: As of August 19th you got a message "No data available in table" at: <https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/selected-aggregates/cen-gov-aggregates> Maybe there is some temporary mix-up in the website. The other sites are OK.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:



GQ-1c. On these websites/portals, can disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure data in consolidated, machine readable files be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation. For more information on machine readability, see: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Answer:

a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

Source:

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/selected-aggregates>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/selected-aggregates/cen-gov-aggregates>

Comment:

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/selected-aggregates>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/selected-aggregates/cen-gov-aggregates>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/data-centre/public-finance-annual>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/data-centre/public-finance-fiscal>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/data-centre/debt-monthly>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is data available monthly, quarterly, annual and fiscal

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-1d. On these websites/portals, are infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/publications/latest-reports>

Comment:

There are serial publications which present info-graphics that simplify data analysis such as the annual economic survey, economic bulletins and annual reports.

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/publications/latest-reports>

<https://www.central-bank.org.tt/statistics/data-centre>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Some examples of highlights and info-graphics at: <https://www.central-bank.org.tt/node/1941> <https://www.central-bank.org.tt/latest-reports/monetary-policy-report>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-2. Are there laws in place guiding public financial management and/or auditing? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the

comment/citation, and specify whether and where the law(s) contains specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

*GQ-2 asks about the existence of any national laws governing public financial management and auditing. These may include a public finance act, a section of the constitution, or an organic budget law. In some countries, fiscal responsibility legislation may also be relevant. For example, the Kenya researcher may include the link to its Public Finance Management Act, 2012 ([http://kenyalaw.org:8181/exist/kenyalex/actview\\_xql?actid=No.%2018%20of%202012](http://kenyalaw.org:8181/exist/kenyalex/actview_xql?actid=No.%2018%20of%202012)), and the Macedonian researcher may include a link to its State Audit Law (<https://www.finance.gov.mk/files/u11/Audit%20law.pdf>). Researchers should provide links to websites where such laws are published, if possible, or an electronic copy of the law itself. They should also indicate if and where (e.g. which article) these laws include specific provisions for budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes.*

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

The Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago; The Exchequer and Audit Act  
[http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/alphabetical\\_list/lawspdfs/69.01.pdf](http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/alphabetical_list/lawspdfs/69.01.pdf)

<http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Accounting%20Manual%20Comptroller%20of%20Accounts.pdf>

Comment:

The Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago; The Exchequer and Audit Act  
Comment: The Minister of Finance has responsibility for the budget. Section 113 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago states: "The Minister responsible for finance shall cause to be prepared and laid before the House of Representatives before or not later than thirty days after the commencement of each financial year estimates of the revenues and expenditure of Trinidad and Tobago for that year." The budget process in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago operates under a fiscal year cycle that is twelve (12) months in length. The fiscal year starts on October 1 and ends on September 30 of each year. There is also the Exchequer and Audit Act which is: An Act to provide for the control and management of the public finances of Trinidad and Tobago; for the duties and powers of the Auditor General; for the collection, issue and payment of public moneys; for the audit of public accounts and the protection and recovery of public property; for the control of the powers of statutory bodies; and for matters connected therewith

[http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/alphabetical\\_list/lawspdfs/69.01.pdf](http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/alphabetical_list/lawspdfs/69.01.pdf)

<http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Accounting%20Manual%20Comptroller%20of%20Accounts.pdf>

<http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Accounting%20Manual%20Comptroller%20of%20Accounts.pdf> – Accounting Manual

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-3. Is there at least one additional law regulating: (1) access to information; (2) government transparency; or (3) citizens participation? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where these laws contain specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

*The third and last question asks researchers to list any additional laws regulating access to information, transparency, or citizens' participation that are relevant for the promotion of budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes. These might include legislation related to access to information, to planning processes, or to public administration more generally. India's Right to Information Act of 2005 (<https://www.ncess.gov.in/facilities/central-public-information-officer/rti-act-details.html>) is an example of this type of law. More information on access to information legislation (constitutional provisions, laws, and regulations), including examples of model laws, can be found here: <http://www.right2info.org/laws/constitutional-provisions-laws-and-regulations#section-1>.*

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

The Freedom of Information Act  
<http://www.foia.gov.tt/>

Comment:

The Freedom of Information Act regulates access to Information. There is no specific provision for budget transparency for citizen's participation

<http://www.foia.gov.tt/>

Citizen participation in the budget is (in theory) facilitated by:

- Public sitting of the Standing Finance Committee to enhance transparency by allowing citizens to witness the line by line examination of the budget.
- unrestricted access to budget documents – online and print
- public hearings of the Financial Oversight Committees (PAAC, PAC & PA(E)C)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Basic Principles of the Freedom of Information Act <http://www.foia.gov.tt/node/61> Freedom of Information legislation should be guided by the principle of maximum disclosure Public authorities are obligated to publish key information of public interest about their organization Exceptions should be clearly and narrowly drawn Requests for information should be processed fairly and rapidly

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

1. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 1 addresses the presentation of expenditure by administrative unit. This information indicates which government entity (ministry, department, or agency, or MDAs) will be responsible for spending the funds and, ultimately, held accountable for their use.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all administrative units, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the administrative units shown individually, in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation, must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. In other words, the sum of the expenditures assigned to the individual MDAs (education, health, infrastructure, interior, defense, etc.) must account for at least two-thirds of the total expenditure budgeted for that particular year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents administrative units that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by administrative unit.*

Answer:

a. Yes, administrative units accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

pages iii xviii-xix

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

xviii

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

iv-xi

Comment:

All expenditures are presented under relevant Administrative "Heads of Expenditure", for example, the President, Auditor General, Tax Appeal Board, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Health etc. There are a total of 81 "Heads" as of the 2020/2021 budget year, under which expenditure is allocated, for example, Head number 28 refers to the Ministry of Health, identified as "Under the General Control of the Minister of Health" for which expenditure is presented separately from Head number 35- the Ministry of Tourism. In addition the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly for the financial year 2021 includes expenditure for the budget year for statutory boards and similar bodies for which the relevant "Administrative Head" which is responsible is also identified. For example, expenditure of the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority is identified under the Head of Ministry of Transport thus highlighting that this is the Ministry responsible for expenditures by this body.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

2. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by functional classification?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 2 addresses the presentation of expenditure by functional classification. This classification indicates the programmatic purpose, sector, or objective for which the funds will be used, such as health, education, or defense. Administrative units are not necessarily aligned with functional classifications. For instance, in one country all functions connected with water supply (which fall into the "Housing" function) may be undertaken by a single government agency, while in another country they may be distributed across the Ministries of Environment, Housing, and Industrial Development. In the latter case, three ministries have programs addressing water supply, so three ministries contribute to one function. Similarly, some administrative units may conduct activities that cut across more than one function. For instance, in the example above, some programs of the Ministry of Environment would also be classified in the "environmental protection" function.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by functional classification.*

**Answer:**

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

pages iv-v and 1 - 3

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

viii - ix

**Comment:**

Functional Classification of Current Account Expenditures is identified in the Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021 as 1) General Public Services 2) Public Order and Safety 3) Education 4) Health and Social Protection 5) Housing and Community Amenity 6) Agriculture Affairs and Services 7) Transportation and Communication 8) Other Economic Services 9) Expenditure not elsewhere classified. Expenditure not classified by major group includes public debt transactions. In addition within the Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the financial year 2021, there are identified sub items under the following items that have been detailed: 1) Pre-Investment 2) Productive Sectors 3) Economic Infrastructure 4) Social Infrastructure 5) Multi-Sectoral and Other Services Under Social Infrastructure for example, sub heading for which expenditure is detailed includes: Defense, Education, Health Housing etc.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

3. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by functional classification, is the functional classification compatible with international standards?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 3 asks whether a country's functional classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's functional classification must be aligned with the OECD and the UN's Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), or provide a cross-walk between the national functional presentation and COFOG.*

*The OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency can be viewed at <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/Best%20Practices%20Budget%20Transparency%20-%20complete%20with%20cover%20page.pdf>*

COFOG can be viewed at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM\\_84E.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_84E.pdf) or at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qfs/manual/pdf/ch6ann.pdf>.

Answer:

a. Yes, the functional classification is compatible with international standards.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

pages iv-v and 1 - 3

Comment:

Functional Classification of Current Account Expenditures is identified in the Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021 as 1) General Public Services 2) Public Order and Safety 3) Education 4) Health and Social Protection 5) Housing and Community Amenity 6) Agriculture Affairs and Services 7) Transportation and Communication 8) Other Economic Services 9) Expenditure not elsewhere classified. Expenditure not classified by major group includes public debt transactions.

There is also a chart of accounts and classification of expenditure sub-items in the draft estimates of expenditure.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

4. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by economic classification?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 4 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification. Economic classification provides information on the nature of the expenditure, such as whether funds are being used to pay for wages and salaries, capital projects, or social assistance benefits. Please note that a presentation of expenditures by current and capital expenditures without additional disaggregation or detail will not qualify as an economic classification.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification.*

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by economic classification.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

pages vii- xvii and page 1-3

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

for example page xix

Comment:

The Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021 presents expenditure under the sub heads for each administrative unit: 1) Personnel Expenditure 2) Goods and Services 3) Minor Equipment Purchases 4) Current Transfers and Subsidies 7) Debt Servicing 9) Development Programme The example in the sources refer to the President as the Administrative Unit under which expenditures are presented by economic classification as indicated above. The Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2021 however, details each sub head with descriptions under each sub head. For example, under Personnel Expenditure there are expenditures identified for Salaries and Cost of living allowance etc; under Goods and Services expenditures are identified for Postage, Hosting of Conferences, Uniforms etc

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

5. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by economic classification, is the economic classification compatible with international standards?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 5 asks whether a country's economic classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's economic classification must be consistent with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2001 Government Finance Statistics (GFS). The GFS economic classification is presented here: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>. To learn more about Government Finance Statistics also refer to the entire IMF 2001 GFS manual (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf>).*

**Answer:**

a. Yes, the economic classification is compatible with international standards.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

pages vii-xvii and 1-3

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

page xix

**Comment:**

The Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021 presents expenditure under the sub heads for each administrative unit: 1) Personnel Expenditure 2) Goods and Services 3) Minor Equipment Purchases 4) Current Transfers and Subsidies 7) Debt Servicing 9) Development Programme. The example in the sources refer to the President as the Administrative Unit under which expenditures are presented by economic classification as indicated above. The Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2021 however, details each sub head with descriptions under each sub head. For example, under Personnel Expenditure there are expenditures identified for Salaries and Cost of living allowance etc; under Goods and Services expenditures are identified for Postage, Hosting of Conferences, Uniforms etc

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

6. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 6 asks whether expenditures are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should treat the term "program" as meaning any level of detail below an administrative unit – that is, any programmatic grouping that is below the ministry, department, or agency level. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.*

*A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.*

*Budget decisions for the upcoming year can also affect the parameters of future budgets. It is therefore useful to estimate revenues and expenditures for multi-year periods, understanding that these estimates might be revised as circumstances change. Sometimes referred to as a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), a three-year period – that is, the budget year plus two more years – is generally considered an appropriate horizon for budgeting and planning.*

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

page 2-3

State Enterprises Investment Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/State-Enterprise-Investment-Programme-2021.pdf>

pages 70-97

Social Sector Investment Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Social-Sector-Investment-Programme-2021-1.pdf>

pages 186-195

Public Sector Investment Programme Trinidad 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>

202-227

Public Sector Investment Programme Tobago 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-Tobago.pdf>

90-96

Comment:

The State Enterprises Investment Programme details specific investments and the associated expenditures associated with activities underlying the investments. The PSIPs for Trinidad and Tobago also present the programme level expenditures. The draft estimates of the development programme lists expenditures under Head, Sub-Head/Item/Sub-item/project group/Project description.

The Social Sector Investment Programme provides expenditures for Key Social Programmes and Structural/Institutional Initiatives Funded by the Public Sector Investment Programme; and the Allocations and Expenditures for Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2020 and 2021.

Please note that each of the expenditures sources provide some programme level information. There are summary tables at the beginning of each document by administrative head, in the Draft Estimates of expenditure are broken down into sub-heads; In the Draft estimates of recurrent expenditure are broken down into "Sub-Head" then by "Item" and by "Sub-Item Description" and into "Sub-Head/ Item/Sub-Item/Project Group/Project Description" in the Draft Estimates of Development Programme Expenditure. Other documents such as the Social Sector Investment Programme categorizes expenditures from the Draft estimates of Development Programme expenditures into different types of programme expenditures.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

7. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 7 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," multi-year expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three*

classifications. A "c" answer applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

d. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Public Sector Investment Programme Trinidad 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>

for example: page 211

State Enterprises Investment Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/State-Enterprise-Investment-Programme-2021.pdf>

page 70

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

page xviii

Comment:

The State Enterprises Investment Programme provides projected expenditures only up until September 2021 for programs related to such; This is the same in the Public Sector Investment Programmes as well. All other expenditure classifications are only presented for the budget year, and the prior two budget years as 2019 actual, 2020 estimate, 2020 revised estimate and 2021 estimate.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

7b. Based on the response to Question 7, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for a multi-year period in the Executive's Budget Proposal?

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

There are no multi-year estimates for any type of expenditure beyond the budget year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

8. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by program?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 8 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can



vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures over the multi-year period. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if multi-year estimates are not presented by program.

Revenues generally are separated into two major categories: "tax" and "non-tax" revenues. Taxes are compulsory transfers that result from government exercising its sovereign power. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes. The category of non-tax revenues is more diverse, ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services. Note that some forms of revenue, such as contributions to social security funds, can be considered either a tax or non-tax revenue depending on the nature of the approach to these contributions. Particularly because different revenues have different characteristics, including who bears the burden of paying the tax and how collections are affected by economic conditions, it is helpful when estimates for revenues are disaggregated and displayed based on their sources.

For more information, please refer to the 2001 GFS manual, in particular Appendix 4 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>).

Answer:

d. No, multi-year estimates for programs are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

There are no multi year estimates of expenditures for beyond the budget year (2021)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

9. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 9 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for all tax revenue are presented.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

vii and 1-13

Comment:

Both Non tax revenue sources and Tax revenue sources are identified. Sources of Tax revenue are indicated under 5 main "Heads": 1) Taxes on Income and Income; 2) Taxes on Property 3) Taxes on Goods and Services 4) Taxes on International Trade 5) Other Taxes. For each of the Heads

identified, there is further disaggregation, for example on page 1 of the Draft Estimates of Revenue, Taxes on Income and Profits are specified by sources such as Oil Companies, Individuals, Business Levy etc. The 'Other Taxes' category comprises 1.8% of Total Tax Revenues.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

10. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of government-produced goods and services) for the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 10 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "non-tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The category of non-tax revenues is diverse, and can include revenue ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of non-tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all non-tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of non-tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all non-tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of non-tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of non-tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of non-tax revenue are not presented.*

**Answer:**

a. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for all non-tax revenue are presented.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

viii and 57-64

**Comment:**

Revenue is presented by classification as tax revenue non-tax revenue, capital receipts and financing. Non tax revenue includes repayment of past lending, other non tax revenue and property income.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

11. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 11 evaluates whether revenue estimates are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year) by "category," that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of revenues classified by category for at least two years following the budget year in question.*

**Answer:**

b. No, multi-year estimates of revenue are not presented by category.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>  
page 31

Comment:

Trinidad and Tobago's budgets are presented for the fiscal year alone in terms of revenue and are based on annual projections of the price of Oil and Natural Gas

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

12. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates for individual sources of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 12 evaluates whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented for a multi-year period.*

Answer:

d. No, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>  
page 31

Comment:

Trinidad and Tobago's budgets are presented for the fiscal year alone in terms of revenue and are based on annual projections of the price of Oil and Natural Gas

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

13. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 13 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt that the budget should include:*

- the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*

the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies no information on borrowing and debt is presented for the budget year.

Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

page 96

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

page 96

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

page iv

Comment:

Under Head 19 "Charges on the account of public debt" in the Draft estimates of expenditure, debt servicing is presented which is further detailed into interest- domestic and foreign; Expenses- of Issue Management of Loans; Discounts and Other Financial Instruments; Sinking Fund; Repayment of Loans. The budget statement makes some mention of debt performance during the previous budget year.

The estimates of revenue includes Trinidad and Tobago Financial Statement 2021 which balances revenue and expenditure in the current and capital accounts including financing; development programme, capital repayment and sinking fund contributions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In the case of the BUDGET STATEMENT 2021 there are some estimates in page 31

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

The additional source provided by the peer reviewer is well noted.

13b. Based on the response to Question 13, check the box(es) below to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year  
The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year  
The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

page 96

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

page 96

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

page iv

Comment:

Under Head 19 "Charges on the account of public debt" in the Draft estimates of expenditure, debt servicing is presented which is further detailed into interest- domestic and foreign; Expenses- of Issue Management of Loans; Discounts and Other Financial Instruments; Sinking Fund; Repayment of Loans. The budget statement makes some mention of debt performance during the previous budget year.

The estimates of revenue includes Trinidad and Tobago Financial Statement 2021 which balances revenue and expenditure in the current and capital accounts including financing; development programme, capital repayment and sinking fund contributions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In the case of the BUDGET STATEMENT 2021 it is just some overall estimates. The detailed information is in the documents Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021 and Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

14. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year?

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 14 focuses on the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:*

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

*The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 13, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens, banks, and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.*

*Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding at the end of the budget year.*

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the composition of the total debt outstanding.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

page xxviii, xxix, 96

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

page iv

Comment:

Under Head 18- Ministry of Finance, Debt Servicing is detailed which indicates interest and principal repayment on local loans; Under Head 19 "Charges on the account of public debt" in the Draft estimates of expenditure, debt servicing is presented which is further detailed into interest-domestic and foreign; Expenses- of Issue Management of Loans; Discounts and Other Financial Instruments; Sinking Fund; Repayment of Loans. Interest rates are indicated for individual loans both local and external as well as principal repayments, maturity dates etc.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It is not Head -18 but Head-19: HEAD 19 - CHARGES ON ACCOUNT OF THE PUBLIC DEBT SUB-HEAD : 07 - DEBT SERVICING

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

The correction provided by the peer reviewer is well noted. "HEAD 19 - CHARGES ON ACCOUNT OF THE PUBLIC DEBT, SUB-HEAD : 07 - DEBT SERVICING" can be found on page 97 of the Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021.

14b. Based on the response to Question 14, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the composition of the total debt outstanding are are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Interest rates on the debt

Maturity profile of the debt

Whether the debt is domestic or external

Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

xxix-xxxvii

Comment:

The source citation indicated under Head 19- Charges on Account of Public Health details 14 subheads which includes Interest local and external loans, Expenses of Issues, Management expenses , principal repayments local and foreign, debentures and others. For loans, or bonds etc, maturity dates and details are also indicated.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

15. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?"

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 15 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the budget's revenue and expenditure estimates, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:*

- *nominal GDP level;*
- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

*While the core macroeconomic information should be a standard feature of the Executive's Budget Proposal, the importance of some types of macroeconomic assumptions may vary from country to country. For example, the budget estimates of some countries are particularly affected by changes in the price of oil and other commodities.*

*Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short and long-term interest rates; rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.*

Answer:

d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

page 11

Comment:

There is some forecast made for a fiscal balance in 2022 and a reduction in the fiscal deficit from 5.5 percent of GDP in 2021 to 2 percent of GDP in 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. There is some overall information in the section "Macro-Economic Indicators" (page 10), but it is not very detailed.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

15b. Based on the response to Question 15, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

page 11

Comment:

There is some forecast made for a fiscal balance in 2022 and a reduction in the fiscal deficit from 5.5 percent of GDP in 2021 to 2 percent of GDP in 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree the Budget Statement 2021 includes some estimates but it is not presented in a comprehensive and systematic way.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

16. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget?"

(The core information must include estimates of the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 16 focuses on the issue of whether the Executive's Budget Proposal shows how different macroeconomic assumptions affect the budget estimates (known as a "sensitivity analysis"). It asks whether "core" information related to a sensitivity analysis is presented, estimating the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for:*

- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

*A sensitivity analysis shows the effect on the budget of possible changes in some macroeconomic assumptions, and is important for understanding the impact of the economy on the budget; for instance, what would happen to revenue collections if GDP growth were slower than what is assumed in the budget proposal? Or what would happen to expenditure if inflation were higher than estimated? Or how will revenue be affected by a decrease in the price of oil?*

*As noted for Question 15, changes in certain macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil and other commodities, can have a significant impact on the budget estimates. As a result, some sensitivity analyses may also examine the impact on the budget estimates of changes in assumptions such as the price of oil that are beyond the core elements of the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to a "sensitivity analysis" as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to a "sensitivity analysis" is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on "sensitivity analysis" is presented.*

Answer:

d. No, information related to different macroeconomic assumptions is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

There is no sensitivity analysis. The Budget Statement introduces the budget proposal by highlighting the international context as the backdrop of the Trinidad and Tobago's economic outlook with some reference to multi year projections of the price of oil. Reference is made in the Budget Statement to the formulation of the Macroeconomic and Fiscal Framework. There are however, no further details on the economic outlook of the country.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree



Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

17. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.*

*Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.*

**Answer:**

d. No, information that shows how new policy proposals affect expenditure is not presented.

**Source:**

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

page 32-35

**Comment:**

While fiscal and other measures are identified, the overall impact on expenditures are not mentioned.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

18. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.*

*Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.*

*Prior-year information constitutes an important benchmark for assessing the proposals for the upcoming budget year. Estimates of prior years should be presented in the same formats (in terms of classification) as the budget year to ensure that year-to-year comparisons are meaningful. For example, if the budget proposes shifting responsibility for a particular program from one administrative unit to another – such as shifting responsibility for the training of nurses from the health department to the education department – the prior-year figures must be adjusted before year-to-year comparisons of administrative budgets can be made.*

Typically, when the budget proposal is submitted, the year prior to the budget year (BY-1), also known as the current year, has not ended, so the executive will provide estimates of the anticipated outcome for BY-1. The soundness of these estimates is directly related to the degree to which they have been updated to reflect actual expenditures to date, legislative changes that have occurred, and anticipated changes in macroeconomic, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

The first year that can reflect actual outcomes, therefore, is generally two years before the budget year (BY-2). Thus the OECD recommends that data covering at least two years before the budget year (along with two years of projections beyond the budget year) are provided in order to assess fully the trends in the budget.

Answer:

d. No, information that shows how new policy proposals affect revenues is not presented.

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

pages 32-35

Comment:

While fiscal and other measures are identified, the overall impact on revenues are not mentioned.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

19. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 19 asks if expenditure estimates for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) are presented by one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-1 by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-1 must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

v, xxxix, xl, 5

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

xviii, xix, 1

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

3

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

vii-x

Comment:

Expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification) for Actual (2019), Estimate (2020) Revised Estimate (2020) and Estimate (2021)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. There is data available for: 2019 2020 2020 2021 Actual Estimates Revised Estimates

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

20. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 20 asks if expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.*

*A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaille. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-1. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-1. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.*

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-1.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

page 7

Comment:

The citation for example, identifies Restoration of the Red House and associated expenditures from 2019 to the budget year 2021.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. Tables have this structure: 2019 2020 2020 2021 ITEM Actual Estimates Revised Estimates Estimates

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

21. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditures?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 21 asks whether the expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) have been updated from the original enacted levels. Updates can reflect actual experience to date; revised estimates due to shifting of funds by the executive, as permitted under the law; enactment of supplemental budgets; and revised assumptions regarding macroeconomic conditions, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

Answer "a" applies if the estimates have been updated; answer "b" applies if the original estimates are still being used.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

v, xxxix, xl, 5

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

xviii, xix, 1

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

3

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

vii-x

Comment:

All types expenditures have been presented as 2019 Actual, 2020 Estimate, 2020 Revised Estimate and 2021 Estimate.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Original estimates and revised estimates for 2020.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

22. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 22 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any of the three classifications

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

v, xxxix, xl, 5

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

xviii, xix, 1

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

3

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

vii-x

Comment:

All types expenditures have been presented as 2019 Actual, 2020 Estimate, 2020 Revised Estimate and 2021 Estimate.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is information for 2019 (actual), 2020 (estimates and revised) and 2021 (estimates)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

22b. Based on the response to Question 22, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year in the Executive Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

v, xxxix, xl, 5

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

xviii, xix, 1

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

3

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

vii-x

Comment:

All types expenditures have been presented as 2019 Actual, 2020 Estimate, 2020 Revised Estimate and 2021 Estimate.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The standard format for the tables includes 2019, 2020 and 2021

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

23. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for more than one year preceding the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 23 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year before the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.*

*A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-2 and prior years. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-2 and prior years. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.*

**Answer:**

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

v, xxxix, xl, 5

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

xviii, xix, 1

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

3

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

vii-x

**Comment:**

All types expenditures have been presented as 2019 Actual, 2020 Estimate, 2020 Revised Estimate and 2021 Estimate.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

24. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 24 asks for which year the actual outcomes for expenditures are shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated all its expenditure data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

v, xxxix, xl, 5

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

xviii, xix, 1

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

3

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

vii-x

Comment:

All types expenditures have been presented as 2019 Actual, 2020 Estimate, 2020 Revised Estimate and 2021 Estimate.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. The data for 2019 is listed as "actual".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

25. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.*

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 are presented by category.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

page vii and viii

Comment:

Tax and Non tax Revenues are presented for 2019 actual , 2020 Estimates, 2020 Revised Estimates and 2021 Estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

26. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.*

**Answer:**

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-1.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

vii and viii

**Comment:**

Tax and Non tax Revenues are presented for 2019 actual , 2020 Estimates, 2020 Revised Estimates and 2021 Estimates which is also detailed for individual sources

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

27. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have the original estimates of revenue for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated to reflect actual revenue collections?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.*

**Answer:**

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

vii and viii

**Comment:**

Tax and Non tax Revenues are presented for 2019 actual , 2020 Estimates, 2020 Revised Estimates and 2021 Estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:



28. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

**GUIDELINES:**

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

**Answer:**

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

vii and viii

**Comment:**

Tax and Non tax Revenues are presented for 2019 actual , 2020 Estimates, 2020 Revised Estimates and 2021 Estimates.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

29. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

**GUIDELINES:**

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

**Answer:**

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

vii and viii

**Comment:**

Tax and Non tax Revenues are presented for 2019 actual , 2020 Estimates, 2020 Revised Estimates and 2021 Estimates.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is information available for the period 2019 - 2021

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

30. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?

**GUIDELINES:**

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

**Answer:**

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

vii and viii

**Comment:**

Tax and Non tax Revenues are presented for 2019 actual , 2020 Estimates, 2020 Revised Estimates and 2021 Estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

31. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

(The core information must include the total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1; the amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1; interest payments on the debt; interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 31 focuses on prior-year debt information, rather than on prior-year expenditures or revenues, asking whether "core" information is provided on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1).

The "core" information includes:

- total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1;
- amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1;
- interest payments on the debt;
- interest rates on the debt instruments;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether it is domestic or external debt.

This core information for BY-1 is consistent with the budget year information for borrowing and debt, which is examined in Questions 13 and 14. Please note that for the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

In addition, some governments provide information beyond the core elements, such as gross new borrowing required during BY-1; currency of the debt; whether the debt carries a fixed or variable interest rate; whether it is callable; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for BY-1 as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on government borrowing and debt for BY-1.

**Answer:**

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

page 96

Comment:

Charges on account of public debt is presented for BY-2 (2019 Actual), BY -1 (2020 Estimates and Revised Estimates) and the BY (2021 Estimates). These are aggregate values for Debt servicing. Further breakdown of debt servicing are presented for the Budget year 2021, for the BY-2, and BY-1 years on page 96 of the citation under the following items and sub items: INTEREST, TOTAL INTEREST, TOTAL(Recurrent), SINKING FUND, Total Sinking Fund, REPAYMENT OF LOANS, Total Repayment of Loans, TOTAL (Capital Repay. & Sinking Fund) and GRAND TOTAL. Interest Payments are therefore the only elements shown

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For example there is not information on interest rates on the debt instruments.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

32. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 32 asks for which year the actual outcome for total debt outstanding is shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated its debt data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.*

*For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.*

*It is essential that all government activities that may have an impact on the budget – in the current budget year or in future budget years – be fully disclosed to the legislature and the public in budget documents. In some countries, for instance, entities outside central government (such as public corporations) undertake fiscal activities that could affect current and future budgets. Similarly, activities that can have a significant impact on the budget, such as payment arrears and contingent liabilities, sometimes are not properly captured by the regular presentations of expenditure, revenue, and debt.*

Answer:

d. No actual data for government debt are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.

Source:

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

page 96

Comment:

All of the draft estimates present expenditures by for 2019 (actual expenditures), 2020 (estimates), 2020 (revised estimates) and the budget year 2021 (estimates). In all cases, i.e. in all draft estimates of expenditure documents, the variance is also presented, this includes debt servicing. However, Total Debt is not otherwise reported outside of revenues and expenditures.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

33. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on extra-budgetary funds for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund; and complete income, expenditure, and financing data on a gross basis.)"

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 33 focuses on extra-budgetary funds, asking whether "core" information related to these funds, which exist outside the budget, are presented. These*

core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund (i.e., why was a particular fund set up? what is it used for?); and
- estimates of its income, expenditure, and financing. (These estimates should be presented on a gross basis so that it is possible to tell how much money flows through each extra-budgetary fund.)

In most countries, governments engage in certain budgetary activities that are not included in the central government's budget. Known as extra-budgetary funds, they can range in size and scope. For example, countries frequently set up pension and social security programs as extra-budgetary funds, where the revenues collected and the benefits paid are recorded in a separate fund outside the budget. Another example of an extra-budgetary fund can be found in countries dependent on hydrocarbon/mineral resources, where revenues from producing and selling those resources are channeled through systems outside the annual budget.

In some cases, the separation engendered by an extra-budgetary fund serves a legitimate political purpose, and the finances and activities of these funds are well documented. In other cases, however, this structure is used for obfuscation, and little or nothing is known about a fund's finances and activities.

The availability of information related to extra-budgetary funds is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the government's true fiscal position. In addition to the core information, other information about extra-budgetary funds is also desirable. Such information includes a discussion of the risks associated with the extra-budgetary fund; expenditures classified by economic, functional, or administrative unit; and the rules and procedures that govern the operations and management of the extra-budgetary fund.

For more information about extra-budgetary funds, see the *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 2.1.1 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9/781484331859/24788-9/781484331859/24788-9/781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to extra-budgetary funds as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. A "b" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation presents all of the core information. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to extra-budgetary funds is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on extra-budgetary funds.

Please provide in the comments a list of all known extra-budgetary funds.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some extra-budgetary funds.

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

page 10

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

page iv

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>

iv

Comment:

The Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) is detailed to a large extent in the Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the financial year 2021. Expenditures outside of the Consolidated Fund is accounted for in the cited draft estimates under the IDF. However, other funds such as the Unemployment Fund, and the Green fund are not detailed as is indicated in the Draft Estimates of Revenue page iv which states that "Revenue and expenditure exclude Unemployment Fund and Green Fund".

According to the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago: The Central Bank includes receipts from Green Fund under non-energy revenue and in particular within taxes on income and profits. However, Green Fund has its own Act which governs how the funds are deposited and expended. Green Fund receipts are earmarked revenue and is treated separately when compared with other categories of revenue. While receipts from other categories of revenue are placed in the consolidated fund, collections from Green Fund are placed in its own Fund. In addition, although not specified as budget documentation, there are Heritage and Stabilization Fund reports that are published by the Ministry of Finance.

The budget statement refers to draw downs in the Heritage and stabilization fund and the Draft estimates of revenue also identifies that financing also includes withdrawal from the Heritage and Stabilization Fund in 2020 (BY-1)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

34. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 34 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documents present the finances of the central government on a consolidated basis, showing both its budgetary and extra-budgetary activities. Virtually all of the questions in the OBS questionnaire focus on budgetary central government – the activities of the ministries, departments, or agencies of central government. In addition, Question 33 asks about extra-budgetary funds, such as social security funds that are not included in the budget.*

*Coverage is an important aspect of fiscal reporting. Budget documents should cover the full scope of government's financial activity. In many countries, extra-budgetary activities are substantial, and can represent a sizable share of the central government's activities. To get a full picture of the central government's finances, therefore, it is necessary to examine both activities that are included in the budget and those that are extra-budgetary. This question asks whether such a consolidated presentation of central government finances is provided.*

*The central government is only one component of the overall public sector. The public sector also includes other levels of government, such as state and local government, and public corporations. (See Box 2.1 under Principle 1.1.1 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018): <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>). For the purpose of answering this question, please consider only the central government level.*

*In order to answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year.*

**Answer:**

b. No, central government finances are not presented on a consolidated basis.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2021.pdf>  
250-251

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>  
page v

**Comment:**

Sources of funding, including Central Government Financing are identified in the Appendix of the cited document. This includes loans and grants from institutions such as the IDB; the EU, and China EXIM Bank. In central government financing the sources of financing are the Chinese Government- Republic of China, the Consolidated Fund and the Infrastructure Development Fund. Other sources of extra-budgetary finances are included as extraordinary receipts in the Draft Estimates of Revenue (page v) which represents a withdrawal from the Heritage and Stabilization fund in 2020.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

**IBP Comment**

Given that a consolidated presentation of government finances should also include expenditures, and given that the presentation on pages 250-251 is essentially unchanged from previous practices, the response is revised from "a" to "b" to ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across countries.

35. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of intergovernmental transfers for at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 35 asks about intergovernmental transfers. In many cases, the central government supports the provision of a good or service by a lower level of government through an intergovernmental transfer of funds. This is necessary because, independent from the level of administrative decentralization that exists in a given country, the capacity for revenue collection of a local government is unlikely to be sufficient to pay for all its expenses. However, because the activity is not being undertaken by an administrative unit of the central government, it is unlikely to receive the same level of review in the budget. Thus it is important to include in the budget proposal a statement that explicitly indicates the amount and purposes of these transfers.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all intergovernmental transfers and a narrative discussing these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all intergovernmental transfers are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, intergovernmental transfers (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of intergovernmental transfers are presented.

**Answer:**

b. Yes, estimates of all intergovernmental transfers are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>  
page viii-xi

**Comment:**

This document details Government subventions to various Boards and including Local Government allocations.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

36. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region) to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, for at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 36 asks about "alternative displays" of expenditures that highlight the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens. As discussed above, expenditures are typically presented by at least one of three classifications – administrative, functional, and economic classifications (see Questions 1-5) – and by individual program (Question 6). In addition, governments can provide alternative displays to emphasize different aspects of expenditure policies and to show who benefits from these expenditures.

For the purpose of answering this question, the alternative presentation must differ from the presentations (such as administrative, functional, or economic classifications or presentation by program) used to answer other questions. The alternative display can cover all expenditures or only a portion of expenditures. For instance, it can show how all expenditures are distributed according to geographic region or it can show how selected expenditures (such as the health budget or the agriculture budget) are distributed to different regions. But such a geographic display must be something different than the presentation of intergovernmental transfers used to answer question 35. One exception is when a country includes a special presentation of all policies intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (and is used to answer Question 52) then that can be considered an alternative display for purposes of answering this question as well. Finally, brief fact sheets showing how proposals in the budget benefit particular groups would be insufficient; only more detailed presentations would be considered.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?"

(<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of the importance of alternative displays of budget information and provides a number of examples. For instance,

- Bangladesh in its 2017-18 Budget included a detailed supplementary Gender Budgeting Report, which presents the spending dedicated to advancing women across various departments. (<https://mof.portal.gov.bd/site/page/3bb14732-b5b1-44df-9921-efedf1496295>).
- The UK's 2017 budget included a supplementary analysis that provided a distributional analysis of the budget by households in different income groups (see [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/661465/distributional\\_analysis\\_autumn\\_budget\\_2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661465/distributional_analysis_autumn_budget_2017.pdf))
- South Africa's 2017 Budget Review goes beyond the standard presentation of intergovernmental transfers, discussing the redistribution that results from national revenue flowing to the provinces and municipalities and presenting the allocations on a per capita basis (see chapter 6, <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2017/review/FullBR.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least three different presentations that illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least two different alternative displays of expenditures. A "c" applies if only one type of alternative display of expenditure is presented. Answer "d" applies if no alternative display of expenditure is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, one alternative display of expenditures is presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

Comment:

Expenditures in the Social Sector Investment Programme are presented under administrative heads.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I partially agree. True the budget proposal doesn't show alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region). However, in the documents "Budget Statement 2021" and "Social Sector Investment Programme 2021" there is some information available on sector plans and programmes, including those targeting specific groups (such as students or poor households), but again not in a systematic and detailed way

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per the question guidelines, "when a country includes a special presentation of all policies intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (and is used to answer Question 52) then that can be considered an alternative display for purposes of answering this question as well." In question 52, the researcher notes that such a presentation can be found in the following source: Social Sector Investment Programme 2021 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Social-Sector-Investment-Programme-2021-1.pdf> page 5, 12-13; 175; 186-195 The response is therefore revised from "d" to "c."

36b. Based on the response to Question 36, select the box(es) below to identify which types of alternative displays are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Policy impacts based on income

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>  
page 20

Comment:

Expenditures are presented under Administrative Heads. Some narratives in the budget statement highlight groups that may be affected such as page 20 where lower to middle income households are identified to benefit from low cost housing.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per the IBP Staff comment on Question 36, the existing response is revised from "None of the above" to "Policy impacts based on income."

37. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of transfers to public corporations for at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 37 asks about transfers to public corporations. It is often the case that governments have a stake in enterprises that manage resources that are particularly relevant for the public good (such as electricity, water, and oil). While these public corporations can operate independently, in some cases the government will provide direct support by making transfers to these corporations, including to subsidize capital investment and operating expenses.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all transfers to public corporations and a narrative discussing the purposes of these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all transfers to public corporations are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, transfers to public corporations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented.*

*Please provide in the comments a list of all known public corporations.*

**Answer:**

a. Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

**Source:**

State Enterprises Investment Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/State-Enterprise-Investment-Programme-2021.pdf>  
pages 70-99

**Comment:**

The SEIP identifies programmes under each State Enterprise, the estimated cost of programmes and actual and projected expenditure to the end of the budget fiscal year. There are also details provided for each programme for the Budget year.

The State Enterprises Sector is comprised of 57 companies of which 44 are wholly owned, eight are majority owned and five in which GORTT has a minority shareholding. Page 5 of the SEIP indicates where some enterprises contribute to Government Revenue.

Pages 70-99 of the SEIP details estimated cost of programmes within each state enterprise with actual expenditures and projected expenditures from 2018 (start of programme) to Sept 2021.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: That is stated under the heading: "Funded by GoRTT Serviced Loan"

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

38. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity and the intended beneficiaries.)

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 38 focuses on quasi-fiscal activities, asking whether "core" information related to such activities is presented. These core components include:*

- *A statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity (i.e., what is the reason for engaging in this activity?);*
- *The identification of intended beneficiaries of the quasi-fiscal activity.*

*The term "quasi-fiscal activities" refers to a broad range of activities that are fiscal in character and could be carried out through the regular budget process but are not. For example, a quasi-fiscal activity could take place if, instead of providing a direct subsidy through the budget for a particular activity, a public financial institution provides an indirect subsidy by offering loans at below-market rates for that activity. Similarly, it is a quasi-fiscal activity when an enterprise provides goods or services at prices below commercial rates to certain individuals or groups to support the government's policy goals.*

*The above examples are policy choices that may be approved by the government and legislature. However, quasi-fiscal activities can also involve activities that violate or circumvent a country's budget process laws or are not subject to the regular legislative approval process for expenditures. For example, the executive may issue an informal order to a government entity, such as a public commercial enterprise, to provide the executive with goods and services that normally would have to be purchased with funding authorized by the legislature. All quasi-fiscal activities should be disclosed to the public and subject to public scrutiny.*

*Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about quasi-fiscal activities, including for example: the anticipated*



duration of the quasi-fiscal activity; a quantification of the activity and the assumptions that support these estimates; and a discussion of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the activity, including the impact on the entity carrying out the activity. Principle 3.3.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) provides examples of quasi-fiscal activities that can be consulted as needed. And more details on quasi-fiscal activities can be found in the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to all quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to quasi-fiscal activities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on quasi-fiscal activities.

If quasi-fiscal activities do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question.

Answer:

d. No, information related to quasi-fiscal activities is not presented.

Source:

Social Sector Investment Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Social-Sector-Investment-Programme-2021-1.pdf>

page 172

Comment:

The only "quasi-fiscal" activities that may be identified are those that are linked to social programmes that allow for the access of certain groups of the population (low income households etc) to goods and services at a subsidized or no cost such as the distribution of 200 (600 gallon tanks to households).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

39. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets, and an estimate of their value.)

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 39 focuses on financial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. These core components include:

- A listing of the financial assets; and
- An estimate of their value.

Governments own financial assets such as cash, bonds, or equities. Unlike private sector businesses, however, few governments maintain balance sheets that show the value of their assets and liabilities.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about financial assets, including for example: a discussion of their purpose; historical information on defaults; differences between reported values and market values; and a summary of financial assets as part of the government's balance sheet.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to all financial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to financial assets is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on financial assets held by the government.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some financial assets.

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>  
page 10

State Enterprises Investment Programme 2021  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/State-Enterprise-Investment-Programme-2021.pdf>  
pages 5-6

**Comment:**

The Budget Statement presents the net asset value with details of withdrawals in the Heritage and stabilization fund up until the budget year. The SEIP presents some financial performance indicators for state enterprises as well as a narrative of the sale of assets programme. Within the SEIP there are narratives that update the activities of the various state enterprises with some associated expenditures for those activities identified.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Budget Statement 2021 presents just overall figures for the The Heritage and Stabilization Fund: "Madam Speaker, we continue to have significant financial buffers; at the end of September 2020 our foreign exchange reserves were US\$7.3 billion and our assets in the Heritage and Stabilization Fund were US\$5.7 billion. The combined total of US\$13 billion equates to approximately 59 percent of GDP." The State Enterprises Investment Programme 2021 includes some information on financial results. It also includes an Appendix I with the Public Companies Shareholding Listing.

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

40. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on nonfinancial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets by category.)

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 40 focuses on nonfinancial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. The core information is a listing of nonfinancial assets, grouped by the type (or category) of asset.*

*Nonfinancial assets are things of value that the government owns or controls (excluding financial assets) such as land, buildings, and machinery. The valuation of public nonfinancial assets can be problematic, particularly in cases where the asset is not typically available on the open market (such as a government monument). In these cases, it is considered acceptable to provide summary information in budget documents from a country's register of assets. But, in some cases, governments are able to value their nonfinancial assets; some present a summary of nonfinancial assets as part of their balance sheets. For an example of how nonfinancial assets are presented in one of the many supporting documents to the New Zealand Executive's Budget Proposal, see the Forecast Financial Statement 2011, Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued), Note 14, accessible here: <https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2011-05/befu11-pt6of8.pdf>.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year a listing by category of all nonfinancial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to nonfinancial assets is presented, but some nonfinancial assets are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on nonfinancial assets held by the government.*

**Answer:**

d. No, information related to nonfinancial assets is not presented.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>  
page 39

**BUDGET STATEMENT 2021**

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

**State Enterprises Investment Programme 2021**

Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/State-Enterprise-Investment-Programme-2021.pdf>

page 8, 60, 70

Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-PE-2021-1.pdf>

page viii

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

page v

Comment:

Mostly information on the sale of assets are presented in the budget documents. In the draft estimates of revenue, Capital revenue includes details on the sale of assets.

The budget statement also provides a narrative on the performance of a restructured state enterprise while the SEIP indicates the financial performance and activities of other state enterprises. The SEIP highlights capital infrastructure projects financed by state enterprises and statutory authorities through internally generated fund and loans serviced by either the agencies or the government.

The draft estimates of expenditure and recurrent expenditures include the acquisition of physical (capital) assets under sub head 05.

In addition, Balance Sheets are not presented in any budget documents but the Draft Estimates of Expenditure indicates Acquisition of Physical and Capital assets as a column, as well as M. Equipment Purchases. The state enterprises investment programme indicates profits of key state enterprises and percentage ownership; wholly owned; Majority Owned; Less than 50% Ownership; and Indirectly Owned.

As this information concerns flows rather than stocks of non-financial assets, in accordance with OBS methodology response "D" has been selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I partially agree. However it is worth noting that the State Enterprises Investment Programme 2021 includes as an annex the list of companies wholly or partially owned by the government, indicating the % of government ownership, but not the current/estimate value of such ownership.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

The comment provided by the peer reviewer is well-received; however, the governments' ownership stakes would pertain more to the financial assets covered by Question 39.

41. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure arrears for at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 41 asks about estimates of expenditure arrears, which arise when government has entered into a commitment to spend funds but has not made the payment when it is due. (For more information see sections 3.49-3.50 of the IMF's GFS Manual 2001, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf> (page 29)). Though equivalent to borrowing, this liability is often not recorded in the budget, making it difficult to assess fully a government's financial position. Moreover, the obligation to repay this debt affects the government's ability to pay for other activities.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all expenditure arrears and a narrative discussing the arrears. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all expenditure arrears are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, expenditure arrears (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of expenditure arrears are presented. Answer "d" also applies if information is only available for the changes in arrears, and not the stock or balance of arrears.*

*If expenditure arrears do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question. Public expenditure management laws and regulations often will allow for reasonable delays, perhaps 30 or 60 days, in the routine payment of invoices due. Expenditure arrears impacting a small percentage of expenditure that are due to contractual disputes should not be considered a significant problem for the purpose of answering this question.*

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all expenditure arrears are presented.

Source:

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

page iv

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

page xiii

Comment:

Most arrears are settled before the Executive Budget Proposal, though they may persist during the budget year.

The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure has as Sub/Items under specific Sub Heads: Settlement of Arrears. For example, on page iv, Under Subhead 01- Personal Expenditure Sub item 12 is described as Settlement of Arrears to Public Officers; sub-item 16 is described as Payment of Increments- Salaries and therefore includes arrears of increments; However, in the presentation of the estimates, there is no indication of these items suggesting that there were no estimates for expenditure arrears. This is also done in the Draft estimates of revenue and expenditure of the statutory boards and similar bodies.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

42. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities, such as government loan guarantees or insurance programs, for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability; the new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments (the gross exposure) at the end of the budget year.)

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 42 focuses on contingent liabilities, asking whether "core" information related to these liabilities is presented. These core components include:*

- *a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability;*
- *the new contingent liabilities for the budget year, such as new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and*
- *the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments at the end of the budget year. This reflects the gross exposure of the government in the case that all guarantees or commitments come due (even though that may be unlikely to occur).*

*Contingent liabilities are recognized under a cash accounting method only when the contingent event occurs and the payment is made. An example of such liabilities is the case of loans guaranteed by the central government, which can include loans to state-owned banks and other state-owned commercial enterprises, subnational governments, or private enterprises. Under such guarantees, government will only make a payment if the borrower defaults. Thus a key issue for making quantitative estimates of these liabilities is assessing the likelihood of the contingency occurring.*

*In the budget, according to the OECD, "[w]here feasible, the total amount of contingent liabilities should be disclosed and classified by major category reflecting their nature; historical information on defaults for each category should be disclosed where available. In cases where contingent liabilities cannot be quantified, they should be listed and described."*

*Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about contingent liabilities, including for example: historical default rates for each program, and likely default rates in the future; the maximum guarantee that is authorized by law; any special financing associated with the guarantee (e.g., whether fees are charged, whether a reserve fund exists for the purpose of paying off guarantees, etc.); the duration of each guarantee; and an estimate of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the guarantees.*

*For more details on contingent liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and page 59 (Box 11) and Principle 3.2.3 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859>).*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to contingent liabilities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to contingent liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on contingent liabilities.*

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some contingent liabilities.

Source:

Draft Estimates: Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2021-3.pdf>

xiii

Draft Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-the-Revenue-and-Expenditure-of-the-Statutory-Boards-and-Similar-Bodies-and-of-the-Tobago-House-of-Assembly.pdf>

Xiii

Comment:

There is an accounting for contingent liabilities under Sub Head 02, Sub Item 36: extraordinary Expenditure which is described as Unforeseen Expenditure that is unlikely to Recur.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

43. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present projections that assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term?

(The core information must cover a period of at least 10 years and include the macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used and a discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections.)

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 43 focuses on government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer-term, asking whether "core" information related to these issues is presented. These core components must include:*

- *Projections that cover a period of at least 10 years.*
- *The macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used in making the projections.*
- *A discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections. Good public financial management calls for budgets to include fiscal sustainability analyses.*

*The IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) recommends that governments regularly publish the projected evolution of the public finances over the longer term (see Principle 3.1.3.). Future liabilities are a particularly important element when assessing the sustainability of public finances over the long term. Future liabilities are the result of government commitments that, unlike contingent liabilities, are virtually certain to occur at some future point and result in an expenditure. A typical example consists of government obligations to pay pension benefits or cover health care costs of future retirees. Under a cash accounting system, only current payments associated with such obligations are recognized in the budget. To capture the future impact on the budget of these liabilities, a separate statement is required.*

*Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about the sustainability of their finances, including for example: projections that cover 20 or 30 years; multiple scenarios with different sets of assumptions; assumptions about other factors (such as the depletion of natural resources) that go beyond just the core macroeconomic and demographic data; and a detailed presentation of particular programs that have long time horizons, such as civil service pensions.*

*For more details on future liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of government finances over the longer term as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to future liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on future liabilities and the sustainability of government's finances*

Answer:

d. No, information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of finances over the longer term is not presented.

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

pages 25, 28-31

Public Sector Investment Programme Trinidad 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>

15-25

Comment:

A medium Term Framework is mentioned in the Budget Statement and the PSIP 2021. The PSIP includes the policy framework; priorities for the medium term 2021-2025, public investment strategies and strategies to facilitate and attract investment over the medium term 2021-2025. There are some forecasts but are not detailed.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Fundamentally there is information for the short/medium term (Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2020-2021). There are some estimates of GDP/investment goals for 2023 and beyond, but nothing really specific on future liabilities and sustainable finance.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

44. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind, for at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 44 asks about estimates of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind assistance. Such assistance is considered non-tax revenue, and the sources of this assistance should be explicitly identified. In terms of in-kind assistance, the concern is primarily with the provision of goods (particularly those for which there is a market that would allow goods received as in-kind aid to be sold, thereby converting them into cash) rather than with in-kind aid like advisors from a donor country providing technical assistance.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all donor assistance and a narrative discussing the assistance. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all donor assistance are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, donor assistance (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if the sources of donor assistance are not presented, but the total amount of donor assistance is presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of donor assistance are presented. Select answer "e" if your country does not receive donor assistance.*

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all sources of donor assistance are presented.

Source:

Public Sector Investment Programme Trinidad 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>

page 10. 202-227

Comment:

The PSIP identifies financing arrangements for projects with funding from multilateral and bilateral external sources along with narratives for example on page . The draft estimates of development programme identifies loans, and grants towards various administrative Heads- ministries (no narratives included). In kind assistance are not indicated.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

45. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on tax expenditures for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each tax expenditure, the intended beneficiaries, and an estimate of the revenue foregone.)

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 45 focuses on tax expenditures, asking whether "core" information related to these tax preferences is presented. These core components must include for both new and existing tax expenditures:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale;
- a listing of the intended beneficiaries; and
- an estimate of the revenue foregone.

*Tax expenditures arise as a result of exceptions or other preferences in the tax code provided for specified entities, individuals, or activities. Tax expenditures often have the same impact on public policy and budgets as providing direct subsidies, benefits, or goods and services. For example, encouraging a company to engage in more research through a special tax break can have the same effect as subsidizing it directly through the expenditure side of the budget, as it still constitutes a cost in terms of foregone revenues. However, expenditure items that require annual authorization are likely to receive more scrutiny than tax breaks that are a permanent feature of the tax code.*

*Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about tax expenditures, including for example: the intended beneficiaries by sector and income class (distributional impact); a statement of the estimating assumptions, including the definition of the benchmark against which the foregone revenue is measured; and a discussion of tax expenditures as part of a general discussion of expenditures for those program areas that receive both types of government support (in order to better inform policy choices). For more details on tax expenditures, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 1.1.4 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, all of the core information related to tax expenditures as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to tax expenditures is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on tax expenditures.*

**Answer:**

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some tax expenditures.

**Source:**

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

**Comment:**

The Budget Statement updates the state of the Fuel Subsidy (as a tax expenditure) although the policy directive was towards the removal (in part) of the subsidy. Further tax allowances such as rebates on electricity consumption for "low income households"; tax allowances on tertiary education; but there is no estimate of the revenue forgone from such expenditures for these. For the personal income tax allowance however, with the increase in exemption limit from 72000 to 82000 per annum it is estimated that the forgone tax to the government would be 50 million per year.

It should be noted that this was identified as a major omission by the auditor general as it relates to the functions of the Inland Revenue Division.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. However, it must be noted that the Budget Statement 2021 actually has several sections providing information on tax allowances (pages 32, 33, 35), although the information is not presented properly in a comprehensive and systematic way. For example, it should be mentioned that in page 35 there is some analysis on the fiscal impact of Tax Allowances in response to the COVID Pandemia: "Madam Speaker, as a huge fiscal stimulus to the economy and a fillip to the retail sector we are providing relief to working families by increasing the personal income tax exemption limit from \$72,000 to \$84,000 per year. All individuals earning \$7,000 a month or less will now be exempt from income tax. This will put additional income of \$3,000 per year into the pockets of over 250,000 individual taxpayers. This bold measure will cost the Government \$750 million per year in individual income tax revenue but we firmly believe that in this difficult COVID-19 period it will stimulate the demand side of the economy, by stimulating economic activity, consumption, sales and growth by putting more money in the hands of consumers. We believe that through the multiplier effect the net effect on our GDP will be much more than \$750 million. This measure will take effect on January 1, 2021."

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

**IBP Comment**

The clarification and additional context provided by the Peer Reviewer is well-received.

46. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of earmarked revenues for at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 46 asks about estimates of earmarked revenues, which are revenues that may only be used for a specific purpose (for example, revenues from a tax on fuel that can only be used for building roads). This information is important in determining which revenues are available to fund the government's general expenses, and which revenues are reserved for particular purposes.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all earmarked revenues and a narrative discussing the earmarks. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all earmarked revenues are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, earmarked revenues (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of earmarked revenues are presented. An "e" response applies if revenue is not earmarked or the practice is disallowed by law or regulation.*

**Answer:**

d. No, estimates of earmarked revenues are not presented.

**Source:**

Draft Estimates of Revenue 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Draft-Estimates-of-Revenue-2021.pdf>

iv (footnote to table)

**Comment:**

The Green Fund Levy is earmarked but not indicated. Heritage and Stabilization funds are presented in quarterly reports but were mentioned in the budget statement with references mainly to withdrawals over the previous budget year. The Central Bank includes receipts from Green Fund under non-energy revenue and in particular within taxes on income and profits. However, Green Fund has its own Act which governs how the funds are deposited and expended. Green Fund receipts are earmarked revenue and is treated separately when compared with other categories of revenue. While receipts from other categories of revenue are placed in the consolidated fund, collections from Green Fund are placed in its own Fund and not reported, The Unemployment Fund similarly is not included in the Revenues and Expenditure in the Draft Estimates of Revenue.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all earmarked revenues are presented.

Comments: We can discuss this one. Note at page IV: "Revenue and expenditure exclude the Unemployment and Green Funds Financing includes withdrawal from the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund in 2020" However it must be noted in page 17-18 there is information on property income coming from the Consolidated Fund with estimates for 2020 -2021, same with the CLICO Investment Fund. Also in page 29 "non Tax Income" there are revenue estimates for several contributions to the Superannuation Fund (Police Service, Widows and Orphans, T and T Defence Force, etc.). Same in page 39 "Capital Revenue" with "Transfers from Student Revolving Loan fund" and "Transfer from Caroni Reserve Fund" among others. Are all the mentioned revenues just for free disposal or are earmarked. My impression is that some of those Funds may be specifically earmarked (for example the "Student Revolving Loan Fund".

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

**Researcher Response**

Agreed and verified that these funds exist but it is unclear where the revenues derived from these funds are sourced and therefore whether they are earmarked ahead of the financial year or based on receipts from various sources of revenue as compared to the green fund for example, which is explicitly funded by the green fund levy.

**IBP Comment**

In light of the researcher's follow-up comment, the existing response of "d" is maintained.

47. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear*



*description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government’s policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government’s policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand’s 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.*

*In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive’s Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are “translated” into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.*

*Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer “a,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer “b” for either question, the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A “c” response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government’s policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer “d” applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals.*

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government’s policy goals for the budget year is presented.

Source:

Public Sector Investment Programme Trinidad 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>  
pages 1-10, 107-191, page 201.

Comment:

The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) is a strategic investment plan of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the formulation of the National Budget which reflects public investment against national priority areas for development. The PSIP comprises programmes and projects of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) designed to achieve national strategic objectives and it is funded through the Consolidated Fund (CF) and the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF). These programmes and projects are designed to realize the goals set out in Government’s National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016 – 2030 (Vision 2030), which has also been linked to the Roadmap to Recovery Committee Report and Government’s Policy Framework. The achievements recorded as a result of these investments will be demonstrated improved quality of life, economic development, built infrastructure, employment generation and stronger institutional systems.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is also information available in the Budget Statement 2021

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

48. Does the Executive’s Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government’s policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government’s policy goals. The budget is the executive’s main policy document, the culmination of the executive’s planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government’s policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government’s policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand’s 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.*

*In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive’s Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are “translated” into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.*

*Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer “a,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer “b” for either question, the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A “c” response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government’s policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer “d” applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals.*

Answer:

d. No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals for a multi-year period is not presented.

Source:

Public Sector Investment Programme Trinidad 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>

page 1- 4

Comment:

The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) is a strategic investment plan of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the formulation of the National Budget which reflects public investment against national priority areas for development. The PSIP comprises programmes and projects of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) designed to achieve national strategic objectives and it is funded through the Consolidated Fund (CF) and the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF). These programmes and projects are designed to realize the goals set out in Government's National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016 – 2030 (Vision 2030), which has also been linked to the Roadmap to Recovery Committee Report and Government's Policy Framework. The achievements recorded as a result of these investments will be demonstrated improved quality of life, economic development, built infrastructure, employment generation and stronger institutional systems. However, reporting itself does not indicate or specify a multi-year period.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There are some multi years goals (for example housing goals for the next 10 years) mentioned in the Budget Statement 2021, but the information is way too sparse and insufficient, thus I agree with the Consultant.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

49. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on inputs to be acquired for at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 49 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on inputs for the budget year. (Nonfinancial data on outputs and outcomes are addressed in Question 50.)*

*The budget should disclose not only the amount of money that is being allocated on a program but also any information needed to analyze that expenditure. Nonfinancial data and performance targets associated with budget proposals are used to assess the success of a given policy. For example, even when allocated funds are spent according to plan, there remains the question of whether the policy delivered the results that it aimed to achieve.*

*Nonfinancial data can include information on:*

*Inputs - These are the resources assigned to achieve results. For example, in regards to education, nonfinancial data on inputs could include the number of books to be provided to each school or the materials to be used to build or refurbish a school.*

*Outputs - These are products and services delivered as a result of inputs. For example, the number of pupils taught every year; the number of children that received vaccines; or the number of beneficiaries of a social security program.*

*Outcomes - These are the intended impact or policy goals achieved. For example, an increase in literacy rates among children under 10, or a reduction in rates of maternal mortality.*

*In addition, governments that set performance targets must use nonfinancial data for outputs and outcomes to determine if these targets have been met.*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program is organized by functions. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on inputs for all administrative units or all functions, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on inputs are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on inputs is presented.*

Answer:

c. Yes, nonfinancial data on inputs are presented for some programs and/or some administrative units (or functions).

Source:

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

page 20,22

Public Sector Investment Programme Trinidad 2021  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>  
107-187

Public Sector Investment Programme Tobago 2021  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-Tobago.pdf>  
57-85

Comment:  
Some Input, Output and Outcomes are indicated for some but not all programs/administrative units.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

50. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on results (in terms of outputs or outcomes) for at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 50 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 49).*

*To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on results for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on results for each individual program is organized by functional classification. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on results for all administrative units or all functional classifications, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on results are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on results is presented.*

**Answer:**

c. Yes, nonfinancial data on results are presented for some programs and/or some administrative units (or functions).

**Source:**

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

page 20,22

Public Sector Investment Programme Trinidad 2021  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>  
107-187  
191-197

Public Sector Investment Programme Tobago 2021  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-Tobago.pdf>  
57-85

Comment:  
Some output and outcomes are indicated but not for all programs/administrative units, rather in the PSIP these are presented under "thematic areas".

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion:

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

51. Are performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results in the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 51 asks about performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. The question applies to those nonfinancial results shown in the budget, and that were identified for purposes of Question 50.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to all nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to a majority (but not all) of the nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget. A "c" response applies performance targets are assigned only to less than half of the nonfinancial data on results. Answer "d" applies if no performance targets are assigned to nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget, or the budget does not present nonfinancial results.

**Answer:**

c. Yes, performance targets are assigned to some nonfinancial data on results.

**Source:**

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

page 20,22

Public Sector Investment Programme Trinidad 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme.pdf>

107-187

191-197

Public Sector Investment Programme Tobago 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-Tobago.pdf>

57-85

**Comment:**

Performance targets are indicated as "Monitoring and Measuring Performance in the PSIP" for 11 strategic areas in fiscal 202 but not specific to individual programmes. For example, under Food Security and Sustainability one of the performance indicator is percentage employment in agriculture sector for which the target is increase employment in agriculture sector to 4.2% (page 19 PSIP Trinidad).

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree, goals/benchmarks/objectives are included but not for every item

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

52. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations in at least the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 52 asks whether the budget highlight policies, both new and existing, that benefit the poorest segments of society. This question is intended to assess only those programs that directly address the immediate needs of the poor, such as through cash assistance programs or the provision of housing, rather than indirectly, such as through a stronger national defense. This information is of particular interest to those seeking to bolster government's commitment to anti-poverty efforts. For purposes of answering this question, a departmental budget (such for the Department of Social Welfare) would not be considered acceptable. In general, this question is asking whether the EBP includes a special presentation that pulls together estimates of all the relevant policies in one place. However, if the country uses "program budgeting," where programs are presented as expenditure categories with specific and identified objectives, and it identifies anti-poverty programs within each administrative unit, then that is also acceptable for this question.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?"

(<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of countries that have provided information on how its policies affect the poor.

For instance, Pakistan provides a detailed breakdown of pro-poor expenditure as part of its 2017-18 budget proposal. In one document, the government sets out policy priorities, expected outputs, and estimates of past and future spending for several programs aimed at poverty alleviation. Another supporting document provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing policies, including a chapter on social safety nets, covering both financial and performance information of poverty alleviation schemes over a period of eight years. ([http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/mtbf\\_2018\\_21.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/mtbf_2018_21.pdf) and [http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey\\_1718.html](http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey_1718.html)).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must for at least the budget year both present estimates covering all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations and include a narrative discussion that specifically addresses these policies. (For countries using program budgeting that breaks out individual anti-poverty programs, there should be a separate narrative associated with each such program.) Answer "b" if a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented. Answer "c" if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" if no estimates of policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Social Sector Investment Programme 2021

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Social-Sector-Investment-Programme-2021-1.pdf>

page 5, 12-13; 175; 186-195

Comment:

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is mandated to address, inter alia, the social challenges of poverty, initiatives under this Ministry can be interpreted to target the impoverished populations though not explicitly stated. Goal 2 on page 5 of the SSIP states that Social Service Delivery would be improved to better serve the needs of vulnerable groups. pages 12-13 of the SSIP also indicate sector plans for fiscal 2021 which includes developing interventions for the socially displaced national social development programme. Estimates of expenditure for these identified programmes are then indicated in the appendices of the SSIP Appendix 1 and 2 depending on whether financing is derived from the PSIP or from recurrent expenditures.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is also information on social policies to be implemented in the Budget Statement 2021

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

53. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation)?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 53 asks about the budget timetable. An internal timetable is particularly important for the executive's management of the budget preparation process, in order to ensure that the executive accounts for the views of the different departments and agencies in the proposed budget. The timetable would, for instance, set deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. So that civil society is aware of the various steps in the budget formulation process, and when opportunities may exist to engage the executive, it is essential that this timetable be made available to the public.

To answer "a," the executive must prepare a detailed budget timetable and release it to the public. A "b" answer applies if the timetable is made public, but some details are not included. A "c" response applies if the timetable is made public, but many important details are excluded, reducing its value for those outside government. Answer "d" applies if no timetable is made available to the public. As long as a timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal is released, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Executive's Budget Proposal is not made publicly available.

Answer:

c. Yes, a timetable is released, but it lacks important details.

Source:

CALL CIRCULAR

No 1 Dated 18th March 2020

Available on the Internet

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Call-Circular-2020-No.1-March-18-2020.pdf>

Comment:

The Call Circulars initiate the budget formulation process but this is directed to the various Ministries and line Ministries. The cited call circular for example, states that: Ministries, Departments and Agencies are required to submit their draft estimates by stipulated dates. These dates are for internal purposes and are not meant to be held accountable by the public. Other specific dates are not timetabled

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. Check page 2 of the Call Circular

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

54. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 54 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:*

- *nominal GDP level;*
- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

*Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short- and long-term interest rates; the rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.*

*To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.*

Answer:

d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

A pre-budget statement is not produced

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

55. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities and an estimate of total expenditures.)

*GUIDELINES:*

Question 55 focuses on the government's expenditure policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total expenditures.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed programmatic proposals (such detailed information is typically only presented in the budget itself), it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least total expenditures associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can include some detail, for instance, estimates provided by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

A pre-budget statement is not produced

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

56. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's revenue policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of revenue policies and priorities and an estimate of total revenues.)

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 56 focuses on the government's revenue policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of revenue policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total revenue.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed revenue proposals, it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can also include more detail, for instance, with estimates provided by revenue category – tax and non-tax – or some of the major individual sources of revenue, such as the Value Added Tax or the income tax.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

n/a

Comment:  
A pre-budget statement is not produced.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

57. Does Pre-Budget Statement present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 57 asks whether the Pre-Budget Statement includes three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:*

- *the amount of net new borrowing needed in the upcoming budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the upcoming budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the upcoming budget year.*

*Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.*

*Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.*

*Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.*

*To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt for at least the upcoming budget year. For a "b" answer, the Pre-Budget Statement must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the PBS must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the PBS.*

Answer:  
d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:  
n/a

Comment:  
A pre-budge statement is not produced.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

58. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present estimates of total expenditures for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

**GUIDELINES:**



Question 58 asks about multi-year expenditure estimates in the Pre-Budget Statement.

To answer "a," expenditure estimates for at least two years beyond the upcoming budget year must be presented. The estimates must be for at least total expenditures, but could include more detail than just the aggregate total.

Answer:

b. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

A Pre-budget statement is not produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

59. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 59 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.*

*To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of the three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.*

Answer:

c. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020

Assented to 28th October 2020

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

748-750

Comment:

The Act is representative of the Appropriation Bill and summarily presents the approval of estimates of expenditures by administrative "Heads". The enacted budget is only 4 pages and only presents expenditure estimates by administrative head.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is a little bit of additional information in the Budget Statement 2021 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf> regarding estimates of revenues and expenditures.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

59b. Based on the response to Question 59, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Enacted Budget:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Source:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020

Assented to 28th October 2020

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Comment:

The Act is representative of the Appropriation Bill and summarily presents the approval of estimates of expenditures by administrative "Heads". The enacted budget is only 4 pages and only presents expenditure estimates by administrative head.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In the Budget Statement 2021 there is a little bit of information on expenditures and revenues using economic and functional classification, but again it is not very detailed.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

60. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 60 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.*

*A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)*

*To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all programs, which account for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Enacted Budget.*

Answer:

d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020

Assented to 28th October 2020

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Comment:

The Act is representative of the Appropriation Bill and summarily presents the approval of estimates of expenditures by administrative "Heads"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

61. Does the Enacted Budget present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 61 asks whether revenue estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by "category" – that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.*

*To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present revenue estimates classified by category.*

**Answer:**

b. No, the Enacted Budget does not present revenue estimates by category.

**Source:**

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020

Assented to 28th October 2020

<http://www.tparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

**Comment:**

The Act is representative of the Appropriation Bill and summarily presents the approval of estimates of expenditures by administrative "Heads"

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is a little bit of more information in the Budget Statement 2021 (page 31): 2021 • Total revenue \$41.364 billion • Oil revenue \$ 9.265 billion • Non-oil revenue \$31.193 billion • Capital revenue \$0.905 billion • Total expenditure (net of capital Repayments and sinking fund contribution) \$49.573 billion • Fiscal Deficit \$ 8.209 billion

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

62. Does the Enacted Budget present individual sources of revenue?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 62 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Enacted Budget. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.*

*To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue that account for less than two-thirds of revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented.*

**Answer:**

d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present individual sources of revenue.

**Source:**

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020

Assented to 28th October 2020

<http://www.tparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

**Comment:**

The Act is representative of the Appropriation Bill and summarily presents the approval of estimates of expenditures by administrative "Heads"

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is a little bit of more information in the Budget Statement 2021 (page 31): 2021 • Total revenue \$41.364 billion • Oil revenue \$ 9.265 billion • Non-oil revenue \$31.193 billion • Capital revenue \$0.905 billion • Total expenditure (net of capital Repayments and sinking fund contribution) \$49.573 billion • Fiscal Deficit \$ 8.209 billion

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

63. Does the Enacted Budget present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 63 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:*

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year;*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

*Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.*

*Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.*

*Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.*

*To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Enacted Budget must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Enacted Budget must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the Enacted Budget.*

**Answer:**

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

**Source:**

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020  
Assented to 28th October 2020  
<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

**Comment:**

The Act is representative of the Appropriation Bill and summarily presents the approval of estimates of expenditures by administrative "Heads"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

64. What information is provided in the Citizens Budget?

(The core information must include expenditure and revenue totals, the main policy initiatives in the budget, the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based, and contact information for follow-up by citizens.)

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 64 focuses on the content of the Citizens Budget, asking whether "core" information is presented. These core components include:*

- *expenditure and revenue totals;*
- *the main policy initiatives in the budget;*
- *the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based; and*
- *contact information for follow-up by citizens.*

*To answer "a," the Citizens Budget or supporting documentation must present all of the above core information as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Citizens Budget must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if the Citizens Budget includes some of the core components above, but other core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if a Citizens Budget is not published.*

Answer:

d. The Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:

A Guide to the Budget 2021

Prepared by the Financial Security Unit Office of the Parliament 2020.

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Comment:

This document provides guidance to understanding a budget and draws reference to past years performance and the current budgeted year. It also provides expenditure and revenue information and visualizations of each as well as a summary of development programmes and performance targets. It defines relevant terms and describes the content of budget documents and includes a glossary.

Summaries for some Heads of Expenditure but not all are also provided at

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. The Guide to the Budget 2021 is quite useful and is complemented with the specific budget summaries prepared by the FINANCIAL SCRUTINY UNIT OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's follow-up comment for indicator CB-2a, the response is revised from "a" to "d," as the Citizens Budget is considered not publicly available.

65. How is the Citizens Budget disseminated to the public?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 65 asks how the Citizens Budget is disseminated to the public. Citizens Budgets should be made available to a variety of audiences. Therefore paper versions and an Internet posting of a document might not be sufficient.*

*To answer "a," the executive must use three or more different types of creative media tools to reach the largest possible share of the population, including those who otherwise would not normally have access to budget documents or information. Dissemination would also be pursued at the very local level, so that the coverage is targeted both by geographic area and population group (e.g., women, elderly, low income, urban, rural, etc.). Option "b" applies if significant dissemination efforts are made through a combination of two means of communications, for instance, both posting the Citizens Budget on the executive's official website and distributing printed copies of it. Option "c" applies if the Citizens Budget is disseminated through only posting on the executive's official website. Option "d" applies when the executive does not publish a Citizens Budget.*

Answer:

d. A Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:

A Guide to the Budget 2021

Prepared by the Financial Security Unit Office of the Parliament 2020.

<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Comment:

This document is available online.

This document provides guidance to understanding a budget and draws reference to past years performance and the current budgeted year. It also provides expenditure and revenue information and visualizations of each as well as a summary of development programmes and performance targets. It defines relevant terms and describes the content of budget documents.

Summaries for some Heads of Expenditure but not all are also provided at

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Certainly there is a digital version available. HOWEVER I suspect there is also a printed copy, but I couldn't be sure of it.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's follow-up comment for indicator CB-2a, the response is revised from "c" to "d," as the Citizens Budget is considered not publicly available.

66. Has the executive established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information prior to publishing the Citizens Budget?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 66 asks whether the executive has established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information before publishing a Citizens Budget. What the public wants to know about the budget might differ from the information the executive includes in technical documents that comprise the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget; similarly, different perspectives might exist on how the budget should be presented, and this may vary depending on the context. For this reason the executive should consult with the public on the content and presentation of the Citizens Budget.*

*To answer "a," the executive must have established mechanisms to consult with the public, and these mechanisms for consultation are both accessible and widely used by the public. Such mechanisms can include focus groups, social networks, surveys, hotlines, and meetings/events in universities or other locations where people gather to discuss public issues. In countries where Citizens Budgets are consistently produced and released, it may be sufficient for the government to provide the public with contact information and feedback opportunities, and subsequently use the feedback to improve its management of public resources.*

*Option "b" applies if the executive has established mechanisms for consultation that are accessible to the public, but that the public nonetheless does not use frequently. That is, the public does not typically engage with the executive on the content of the Citizens Budget, even though the executive has created opportunities for such consultation. Option "c" applies if the executive has established mechanism for consultation with the public, but they are poorly designed and thus not accessible to the public. Option "d" applies if the executive has not created any mechanisms to seek feedback from the public on the content of the Citizens Budget.*

Answer:

d. No, the executive has not established any mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget.

Source:

A Guide to the Budget 2021

Prepared by the Financial Security Unit Office of the Parliament 2020.

<http://www.tparliament.org/documents/news/mr97D070.pdf>

Comment:

The document is produced by researchers assigned to the Financial Security Unit. The contents are mainly summaries of key budget documents.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Guide to the Budget is not an effort carried by the executive but by the T and T Parliament. Physical address and email are available in the digital documents for citizens to contact the The Secretary Standing Finance Committee Office of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's follow-up comment for indicator CB-2a, the Citizens Budget is considered not publicly available. The existing response of "d" is maintained.

67. Are "citizens" versions of budget documents published throughout the budget process?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 67 asks if "citizens" versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget process. While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key*

*budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle.*

*To answer "a," a citizens version of at least one budget document is published for each of the four stages of the budget process (budget formulation, enactment, execution, and audit) – for a total of at least four citizens budget documents throughout the process. Option "b" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process. Option "c" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least one of the four stages of the budget process. Select option "d" if no "citizens" version of budget documents is published.*

Answer:

d. No citizens version of budget documents is published.

Source:

<http://www.tparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92>

Comment:

The evaluated CB is produced for the 2021 Enacted Budget.

Summaries for some Heads of Expenditure but not all are also provided at

<http://www.tparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's follow-up comment for indicator CB-2a, the response is revised from "c" to "d," as the Citizens Budget is considered not publicly available.

68. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 68 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above.*

*Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.*

*To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," actual expenditures must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if actual expenditures are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by any of the three classifications in In-Year Reports.*

Answer:

d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Comment:

Not Produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

68b. Based on the response to Question 68, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the In-Year Reports:

Answer:  
None of the above

Source:

Comment:  
Not Produced.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

69. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for individual programs?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 69 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.*

*A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaille. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)*

*To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by program in In-Year Reports.*

Answer:  
d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program.

Source:

Comment:  
Not Produced.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

70. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date expenditures with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 70 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual expenditures to-date with either the enacted levels or actual expenditures for the same period in the previous year.*



*The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date expenditures in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast expenditures (based on enacted levels) for the same period.*

*To answer "a," comparisons must be made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports*

Answer:

b. No, comparisons are not made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Comment:

Not Produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: What you get in any case are the annual overall figures for the previous year in the tables included in the Drafts Estimates for revenues and expenditures 2021: 2019 Actual 2020 Estimates 2020 Revised Estimates 2021 Estimates

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

71. Do In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Questions 71 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual revenues by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.*

*To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present revenue estimates classified by category.*

Answer:

b. No, In-Year Reports do not present actual revenue by category.

Source:

Comment:

Not Produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: What you get in any case are the annual overall figures for the previous year in the tables included in the Drafts Estimates for revenues and expenditures 2021: 2019 Actual 2020 Estimates 2020 Revised Estimates 2021 Estimates

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

72. Do In-Year Reports present the individual sources of revenue for actual revenues collected?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 72 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual collections of individual sources of revenue (such as income taxes, VAT, etc.). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.*

*To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue collected, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue that account for less than two-thirds of all revenue collected. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of actual revenue are not presented.*

Answer:

d. No, In-Year Reports do not present individual sources of actual revenue.

Source:

Comment:

Not Produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: What you get in any case are the annual overall figures for the previous year in the tables included in the Drafts Estimates for revenues and expenditures 2021: 2019 Actual 2020 Estimates 2020 Revised Estimates 2021 Estimates

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

73. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date revenues with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 73 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual revenues to-date with either the enacted levels or actual revenues for the same period in the previous year.*

*The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date revenues in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast revenues (based on enacted levels) for the same period.*

*To answer "a," comparisons must be made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.*

Answer:

b. No, comparisons are not made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Comment:

Not Produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: What you get in any case are the annual overall figures for the previous year in the tables included in the Drafts Estimates for revenues and expenditures 2021: 2019 Actual 2020 Estimates 2020 Revised Estimates 2021 Estimates

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

74. Do In-Year Reports present three estimates related to actual government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing; the total debt outstanding; and interest payments?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 74 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:*

- the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year;*
- the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year; and*
- the interest payments to-date on the outstanding debt.*

*Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.*

*Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.*

*Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.*

*To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, In-Year Reports must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, IYRs must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in In-Year Reports.*

Answer:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

Not Produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: What you get in any case are the annual overall figures for the previous year (2019) in the tables included in the Drafts Estimates for revenues and expenditures 2021: 2019 Actual 2020 Estimates 2020 Revised Estimates 2021 Estimates

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

75. Do In-Year Reports present information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding?

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 75 focuses on the composition of government debt, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:*

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

*The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 74, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens and banks and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.*

*Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.*

*To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt to-date as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding in In-Year Reports.*

Answer:

d. No, information related to composition of total actual debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

Comment:  
Not Produced.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

76. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 76 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.*

*Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.*

*To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated macroeconomic forecast and explain all of the differences between the initial forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the updated forecast. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the macroeconomic forecast must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated forecasts are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the macroeconomic forecast has not been updated.*

Answer:

c. Yes, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have been updated, but an explanation of the differences between the original and updated forecast is not presented.

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
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Produced JUNE 12, 2020 made available June 12th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>  
pages 29-35

Comment:

Changes in macroeconomic forecasts are explained including energy price assumptions GDP, Inflation, Funding and Debt to GDP ratios.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Changes to the macroeconomic forecast are established but there is not systematic and comprehensive comparison to the original forecast.

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

77. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 77 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of expenditure for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.*

*To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated expenditure estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative*

discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. The expenditure estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated expenditure estimates, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates is presented.

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
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pages 16-26

Comment:

It is stated "At this juncture, let me advise this Honourable House that the Supplementary Appropriation for fiscal 2020 of \$2,686,000,800 affects 15 Heads of Expenditure and comprises Recurrent Expenditure of \$2,518,374,800 and Development Programme Expenditure of \$167,626,000." Each head of expenditure affected is then identified and explained.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. However the new expenditures estimates are only at the overall level; there is not a detailed, comprehensive comparison with the original estimates at the level of sector/programme, for example.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

78. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 78 asks if expenditure estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.*

*Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.*

*To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Mid-Year Review.*

Answer:

c. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents expenditure estimates by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
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16-26

Comment:

Each update is presented by administrative head. Some detail is presented under each head to explain the programs affected but not individually.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree  
Comments: I agree. The updates estimates are mostly at the overall level.

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

78b. Based on the response to Question 78, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Mid-Year Review:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
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pages 16-26

Comment:

For example: Madam Speaker, the sum of \$76,550,000 is required by the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs; to meet the payment of salaries for additional contract; to pay outstanding fees to local and foreign Attorneys for the provision of services; to enable the Legal Aid and Advisory Council to pay external counsel fees; to meet expenditure for the newly established Public Defenders Department, and to effect the payment of arrears to permanent staff and contract officers on the approval of terms and conditions of employment.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Administrative heads/sector.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

79. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway for individual programs?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 79 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by program for the budget year underway. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.*

*A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)*

*To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Mid-Year Review.*

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
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pages 16-26

Comment:

Individual programmes affected are explained but the estimates for individual programmes are not presented.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. The update estimates of expenditures are at the overall level, indicating the specific amounts required by Ministries and other administrative heads. However, there is not a comprehensive/Systematic/Comparative analysis at the programme level .

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

80. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 80 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of revenue for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.*

*To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated revenue estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the revenue estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated revenue estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the revenue estimates have not been updated.*

Answer:

b. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is presented.

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
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page 16

Comment:

Only as explained by changes in energy prices is revenue presented: Total revenue was originally projected at \$47.749 billion, predicated on an average oil price of US\$60 per barrel and a natural gas price of US\$3.00 per MMBtu

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Please see also pages 17 and 26-27

81. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 81 asks whether revenue estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of*

revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
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page 16

Comment:

The estimate of revenue is only explained by changes in energy prices.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The update revenues figures are quite well explained in an overall way, but there is not a systematic/comprehensive comparison item by item.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

82. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 82 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway are presented in the Mid-Year Review. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.*

*To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenues, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Mid-Year Review.*

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
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16-26

Comment:

Revenue changes were only described as based on changes in energy prices.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The update revenues figures are quite well explained in an overall way, but there is not a systematic/comprehensive comparison item by item.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:



83. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 83 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.*

*Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:*

- *The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

*Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:*

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

*To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, and explain all of the differences between the initial estimates presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the estimates of borrowing and debt must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the estimates of borrowing and debt have not been updated.*

**Answer:**

d. No, estimates of government borrowing and debt have not been updated.

**Source:**

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page 30

**Comment:**

Mention is made of Debt to GDP ratios (without the inclusion of absolute amounts of debt outstanding) and potential funding from external and internal sources.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Page 14: To finance all of this, we will among other initiatives, tap the domestic capital market for such resources that are necessary.

This will be facilitated by the recent amendment to the Development Loans Act which created substantial headroom for funding mechanisms. To that end, we have to date utilized just over \$1 billion of the \$10 billion available under the Development Loans Act and we have not borrowed \$20 billion as touted by the Opposition. Moreover, we have approached multilateral institutions and development banks to ensure that appropriate external financing is also available to meet the requirements of the expanded fiscal deficit in 2020 and 2021. :

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

84. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 84 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual expenditures for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.*

*To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures, along*

with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all expenditures, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for expenditures are not presented.

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for some but not all expenditures are presented.

Comments: To discuss: In the section "Central Government Operations" some information on the differences between the enacted and the updated figures for expenditures and revenues are presented at an overall level (page 92 - 93) although not in a comprehensive and systematic way: "Based on the Revised Estimates for fiscal 2020, Central Government operations are now expected to realize an Overall Deficit of \$16,772.0 million, or 11.3 percent of GDP, while a Current Account deficit of \$13,407.9 million is also anticipated. Total Revenue and Grants are estimated at \$34,059.7 million or 23.0 percent of GDP, while Total Expenditure is projected at \$50,831.7 million or 34.3 percent of GDP"

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, response "d" should therefore be selected for question 84.

85. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 85 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.*

*To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. Answer "b" if expenditure estimates are presented by two of these three classifications. Answer "c" if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Year-End Report.*

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>  
page 96-101

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through

Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: In the section "Central Government Operations" some information on the differences between the enacted and the updated figures for expenditures and revenues are presented at an overall level (page 92 - 93) although not in a comprehensive and systematic way: However in the section "Expenditures" (page 96 -101) presents some information on updates expenditure estimates: "Total Expenditure is projected to increase by 0.1 percent to \$50,831.7 million in fiscal 2020, from \$50,777.5 million in the previous fiscal year. Recurrent Expenditure is expected to amount to \$46,754.2 million or 92.0 percent of Total Expenditure, with Capital Expenditure estimated at \$4,077.5 million or 8.0 percent of Total Expenditure. Under Recurrent Expenditure, an increase is anticipated in Transfers and Subsidies (3.6 percent). In contrast, lower expenditure is projected for Other Goods and Service (15.0 percent), Personnel Expenditure (1.7 percent) and Interest Payments (1.1 percent) Personnel Expenditure is estimated to decrease to \$8,983.8 million in fiscal 2020, as compared to \$9,137.2 million in the previous fiscal year. Compared to payments of \$5,045.5 million in fiscal 2019, expenditure on Interest Payments is anticipated to amount to \$4,988.9 million. When disaggregated, Domestic Interest Payments (\$3,832.0 million) are expected to be \$87.0 million lower than in fiscal 2019. On the other hand, External Interest Payments, amounting to \$1,156.9 million, are estimated to be \$30.4 million higher than in the preceding year. Expenditure on Other Goods and Services is projected to decrease to \$5,459.6 million in fiscal 2020, from \$6,426.4 million in fiscal 2019, mainly on account of a \$673.2 million decrease in spending on Management Expenses/ Expense of Issue/ Discounts and Other Financial Instruments. Lower expenditure is also anticipated on Goods and Service by \$282.5 million and on Minor Equipment Purchases by \$11.1 million. Total Transfers and Subsidies are estimated at \$27,321.9 million in fiscal year 2020. Subsidies, which represents 1 percent of Transfers and Subsidies, are estimated at \$268.9 million; 6.2 percent lower than the previous fiscal year's total of \$286.8 million. This anticipated variance is consequent to decreased subsidies for the Relief of Flood Damage and to the Port Authority amounting to \$3.0 million and \$240.0 million, respectively. Subsidies to the Agriculture Incentive Programme is estimated at \$25.8 million; \$18.7 higher than subsidies remitted in fiscal 2019 (Figure 17). Current Transfers, accounting for 76.9 percent of Total Transfers and Subsidies, are projected at \$21,016.7 million; \$1,093.2 million higher than in fiscal 2019. The largest percentage increase in the components of Current Transfers are expected in Transfers Abroad (63.2 percent) and Other Transfers (14.0 percent). Lower transfers are anticipated to State Enterprises (23.7 percent) and Educational Institutions (1.1 percent) while expenditure under the Green Fund is also expected to decline by \$11.2 million to \$2.4 million. Transfers to Households (\$10,246.4 million) represent the largest share of expenditure under Transfers and Subsidies. The 9 percent increase of \$849.5 million, as compared to fiscal 2019, is mainly attributed to higher than anticipated expenditure consequent to the Government's socioeconomic response to the COVID-19 pandemic (Text Box 4). Specifically increases were recorded under the Senior Citizens Grants (from \$3,846.6 million to \$4,063.0 million), Disability Grants (from \$565.7 million to \$610.0 million), Social Assistance (from \$356.9 million to \$514.0 million), Food Price Support Programme (from \$153.1 million to \$314.6 million) and Salary Relief Grants (amounting to \$226.3 million). "

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, response "d" should therefore be selected for question 85.

85b. Based on the response to Question 85, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

pages 96-101

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: o discuss: In the section "Central Government Operations" some information on the differences between the enacted and the updated figures for expenditures and revenues are presented at an overall level (page 92 - 93) although not in a comprehensive and systematic way: "Based on the Revised Estimates for fiscal 2020, Central Government operations are now expected to realize an Overall Deficit of \$16,772.0 million, or 11.3 percent of GDP, while a Current Account deficit of \$13,407.9 million is also anticipated. Total Revenue and Grants are estimated at \$34,059.7 million or 23.0 percent of GDP, while Total Expenditure is projected at \$50,831.7 million or 34.3 percent of GDP"

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, "None of the above" should therefore be selected for question 85b.

86. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 86 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.*

*A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)*

*To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" if expenditures are not presented by program in the Year-End Report.*

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

pages 96-101

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: To discuss: In the section "Central Government Operations" some information on the differences between the enacted and the updated figures for expenditures and revenues are presented at an overall level (page 92 - 93) although not in a comprehensive and systematic way: "Based on the Revised Estimates for fiscal 2020, Central Government operations are now expected to realize an Overall Deficit of \$16,772.0 million, or 11.3 percent of GDP, while a Current Account deficit of \$13,407.9 million is also anticipated. Total Revenue and Grants are estimated at \$34,059.7 million or 23.0 percent of GDP, while Total Expenditure is projected at \$50,831.7 million or 34.3 percent of GDP" Page 96: "Total Expenditure is projected to increase by 0.1 percent to \$50,831.7 million in fiscal 2020, from \$50,777.5 million in the previous fiscal year. Recurrent Expenditure is expected to amount to \$46,754.2 million or 92.0 percent of Total Expenditure, with Capital Expenditure estimated at \$4,077.5 million or 8.0 percent of Total Expenditure. Under Recurrent Expenditure, an increase is anticipated in Transfers and Subsidies (3.6 percent). In contrast, lower expenditure is projected for Other Goods and Service (15.0 percent), Personnel Expenditure (1.7 percent) and Interest Payments (1.1 percent) ."

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, response "d" should therefore be selected for question 86.

87. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 87 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual revenues for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all revenues, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report.

**Answer:**

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for revenues are not presented.

**Source:**

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>  
pages 93-96

**Comment:**

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for some but not all revenues are presented.

Comments: Some information at the overall level regarding changes in revenues is presented, but not in a systematic/comprehensive way: Page 93: "In fiscal 2020, Total Revenue and Grants is now expected to be \$34,059.7 million; \$13,689.2 million lower than the originally budgeted figure and also lower than the total revenue collected in fiscal 2019 of \$46,748.6 million (Figure 14). The main contributors to revenue in fiscal 2020 are Taxes on Income and Profits, Taxes on Good and Services and Non-Tax Revenue, amounting to \$14,915.2 million, \$8,012.3 million and \$7,013.3, respectively. Tax Revenue, the largest component of Central Government revenue, accounted for 77.3 percent of Total Revenue and Grants in fiscal 2020"

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

**IBP Comment**

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, response "d" should therefore be selected for question 87.

88. Does the Year-End Report present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 88 asks whether revenue estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by "category" – that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present revenue estimates classified by category.

**Answer:**

b. No, the Year-End Report does not present revenue estimates by category.

**Source:**

Review of the Economy 2020  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>  
pages 93-96

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents revenue estimates by category.

Comments: IN the section "Revenues" (page 93 - 9) there is overall information on revenues estimates for 2020 including "Tax revenue", "Non Tax revenue" and "Capital Revenue"

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, response "b" should therefore be selected for question 88.

89. Does the Year-End Report present individual sources of revenue?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 89 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Year-End Report. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.*

*To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Year-End Report.*

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>  
pages 93-96

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

90. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 90 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

**Answer:**

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

**Source:**

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>  
pages 102-114

**Comment:**

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: To discuss: However in the section "Financing" page 102, there is information on the updated financing requirements, including information on Total Public Sector Debt or Gross Public Sector Debt, Net Public Sector Debt Stock, Public Sector Domestic Debt, Public Sector External Debt

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

**IBP Comment**

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, response "d" should therefore be selected for question 90.

90b. Based on the response to Question 90, check the box(es) to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, have the differences between the original forecast and the actual outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

pages 102-114

Comment:

Public Debt and Debt service inclusive of total public sector debt / gross public sector debt (composition net public sector debt, public sector domestic debt public sector external debt central government debt, contingent liabilities and debt servicing are all presented but the wording/narrative suggests that actual outcomes and or original forecasts are not being presented. Instead expectation of what the fiscal year's estimates WILL be are being compared with original forecasts.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: To discuss: However in the section "Financing" page 102, there is information on the updated financing requirements, including information on Total Public Sector Debt or Gross Public Sector Debt, Net Public Sector Debt Stock, Public Sector Domestic Debt, Public Sector External Debt

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, "None of the above" should therefore be selected for question 90b.

91. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 91 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.*

*Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast in the Executive's Budget Proposal. Core components include estimates of the nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates, although the importance of other macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil, can vary from country to country.*

*To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.*

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.



Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree However in the document "Review of the Economic 2020" in the section The Real Economy (page 31) some overall figures are presented for 2019 and 2020: "Domestically, measures taken to slow the spread of the virus and save lives also affected real economic activity within Trinidad and Tobago's borders in 2020 and as a result, real GDP at Producer Prices contracted by 5.9 percent during the first half of 2020. According to the CSO's latest available estimates of quarterly GDP, this overall contraction was premised on a 1.9 percent decrease in real GDP in the first quarter of 2020 and a 10.0 percent fall in real GDP in the second quarter (Appendix 2). The most restrictive COVID-19 measures were implemented in the second quarter of 2020."

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, response "d" should therefore be selected for question 91.

91b. Based on the response to Question 91, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast have the differences between the original forecast and the outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

92. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 92 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.*

*Refer to Question 49 for the nonfinancial data on inputs included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.*

*To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.*

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:  
Review of the Economy 2020  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Comment:  
The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

93. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 93 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 92).*

*Refer to Question 50 for the nonfinancial data on results included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.*

*To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.*

Answer:  
d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:  
Review of the Economy 2020  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Comment:  
The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

94. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 94 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 52 for assistance to the most impoverished populations in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

**Answer:**

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are not presented.

**Source:**

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

**Comment:**

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

95. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 95 asks whether the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 33 for estimates of extra-budgetary funds in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

**Answer:**

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome is not presented.

**Source:**

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

**Comment:**

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not

indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree. There is not a systematic, comprehensive comparison between enacted and updated figures.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, response "d" should therefore be selected for question 95.

96. Is a financial statement included as part of the Year-End Report or released as a separate report?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 96 asks whether a financial statement is included as part of the Year-End Report, or whether it is released as a separate report. The financial statement can include some or all of the following elements: a cash flow statement, an operating statement, a balance sheet, and notes on accounting. For purposes of responding to this question, the financial statement in question does not need to be audited. For an example of a financial statement, see the document "Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand 2013" (<https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2013-10/fsgnz-year-jun13.pdf>)*

*To answer "a," a financial statement must either be included in the Year-End Report or must be released as a separate report. Answer "a" applies if a financial statement is released as a separate report, even if the Year-End Report is not publicly available. Answer "b" applies if no financial statement is released either as part of the Year-End Report or as a separate report.*

Answer:

b. No, a financial statement is neither part of the Year-End Report nor released as a separate report.

Source:

Review of the Economy 2020

Available on the internet October 5th 2020

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Review-of-the-Economy-2020.pdf>

Comment:

The Review of the Economy provides an overview of the macroeconomic performance of the country as well as Central Government Operations for the year but does not compare enacted levels with actual outcomes. All other reporting at the end of the budget execution stage is done through Audit no less than four months after the end of the fiscal year. It is only then that budgeted amounts are compared to actual amounts in the form of Appropriation Accounts and Auditor General's Report. Apart from this the Budget Process/Accountability Cycle in the accounting manual does not indicate the preparation of a Year End Report. The Draft estimates do however provide estimates and revised estimates and the Budget Statement also provides some reporting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree, However, some information is released in the appendix to the Review of the Economy 2020 for the public sector (Appendix 22 - 27) during the year oct 2019 - sep 2020, including: Central Government Fiscal Operations Central Government Revenue Central Government Expenditure and Net Lending Central Government Budget Financing Total Public Debt and Debt Service Cash Statement of Operations for the Rest of the Non-Financial Public Sector

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per question YER-2 and the other Section 1 indicators, a Year-end Report is considered not publicly available. Per the OBS guidelines, response "b" should therefore be selected for question 96.

97. What type of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) has the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conducted and made available to the public?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 97 asks about the types of audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). There are three basic types of audits:

- Financial audits are intended to determine if an entity's financial information is accurate (free from errors or fraud) and presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting and regulatory framework. See ISSAI 200 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more detail.
- Compliance audits look at the extent to which the relevant regulations and procedures have been followed. See ISSAI 400 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-400-compliance-audit-principles/>) for more details.
- Performance audits assess whether activities are adhering to the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. See ISSAI 300 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-300-performance-audit-principles/>) for more details.

Financial and compliance audits are more common than performance audits, which usually occur only once a performance framework has been agreed upon. In some countries, the SAI's mandate limits the type of audit it can conduct.

To answer "a," the SAI must have conducted all three types of audit – financial, compliance, and performance – and made all of them available to the public. A "b" response applies if the SAI has conducted two of the three audit types, and a "c" applies if it has conducted only one type of audit. Answers "b" and "c" may be selected even if the Audit Report is not publicly available, as long as the SAI has conducted compliance or performance audits and made them available to the public. A "d" response applies if the SAI has not conducted any of the three types of audits, or has not made them available to the public.

**Answer:**

a. The SAI has conducted all three types of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) and made them available to the public.

**Source:**

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th April 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

page 34

**Comment:**

Section 24 of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01 (the Act) provides for the submission of the various financial statements comprising the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to be submitted to the Auditor General within four months of the financial year end of 30th September. These are:

Section 24(1)(a) – Accounts of the Treasury

Section 24(1)(b) – Appropriation Accounts of Accounting Officers

Section 24(1)(c) – Statements of Receipts and Disbursements of Receivers of Revenue

Section 24(2) – Accounts of Administering Officers of Funds or Trusts.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: AUDITOR GENERAL'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 10. The Auditor General's responsibility is to express an opinion on the Public Accounts based on the audit and to report thereon in accordance with section 116 (2) and (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and section 25 (1) of the Act. 11. The Auditor General's objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an audit report that includes his opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. 12. As part of an audit in accordance with accepted auditing standards, the Auditor General exercises professional judgement and maintains professional skepticism throughout the audit. The Auditor General also:  Identifies and assesses the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designs and performs audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtains audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for an opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.  Obtains an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ministries and Departments internal control.  Evaluates the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.  Evaluates the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

98. What percentage of expenditures within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 98 focuses on the coverage of audits by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), asking what percentage of expenditures within the SAI's mandate has been audited.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to budgetary central government (ministries, departments, and agencies) that are within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 99 addresses audits of extra-budgetary funds.) Further, the question does not apply to "secret programs" (for example, security-related expenditures that are confidential). Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. Financial audits and compliance audits, or a hybrid of the two, can be taken into account to answer this question. Performance audits should not be considered for this question.

To answer "a," all expenditures within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if at least two-thirds, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response is appropriate when less than two-thirds of expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies when no expenditures have been audited.

**Answer:**

b. Expenditures representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

**Source:**

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)  
Available 29th April 2020  
<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>  
page 126-127

**Comment:**

The records of the Comptroller of Accounts reflected the actual expenditure for the year ended September 30, 2019 under 42 Heads of Expenditure totalled \$54,581,187,114.99. For the financial year 2019, Parliament approved funds totalling \$58,260,464,883.00 to meet expenditure for the service of Trinidad and Tobago.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: 6.24 For the financial year 2019, Parliament approved funds totalling \$58,260,464,883.00 to meet expenditure for the service of Trinidad and Tobago. Particulars are shown below: 6.26 The records of the Comptroller of Accounts reflected the actual expenditure for the year ended September 30, 2019 under 42 Heads of Expenditure totalled \$54,581,187,114.99

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

99. What percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 99 focuses on audits of extra-budgetary funds, asking what percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited. These funds, although technically outside the budget, are governmental in nature and thus should be subject to the same audit requirement as other government programs.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 98 addresses audits of budgetary central government.) Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

To answer "a," all extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies if extra-budgetary funds have not been audited.

**Answer:**

b. Extra-budgetary funds accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

**Source:**

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th April 2020  
<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>  
pages 26-28

**Comment:**

For the financial year 2019, the Public Debt (Local and External Loans and Loans serviced under Head 18) totaled \$75,080,932,858.16. However, the Statutory Sinking Funds for the Public Debt in the sum of \$7,133,658,890.83 are incorporated in the Special Funds totaling \$7,177,719,044.78.

Funds were established under section 43 of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01 (the Act) and/or other legislative authority. Administering Officers are appointed by the Minister of Finance to administer all monies disbursed from the following Funds: Unemployment Fund, Infrastructure Development Fund, NUGFW Training Fund, Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) Fund, Green Fund, CARICOM Trade Support Fund, CARICOM Petroleum Fund, National Wastewater Revolving Fund of Trinidad and Tobago. Not all funds are audited.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For example, in pages 27 - 28: UNEMPLOYMENT FUND In accordance with the Unemployment Levy Act, Chapter 75:03 Section 15, the balances of the Fund are shown in the general accounts. The accounts of the Fund are presented as Schedules C (i) and (ii) to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR TUITION EXPENSES (GATE) FUND The Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Fund was established under Section 43(2) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01 (Legal Notice No. 329 dated December 09, 2004). In accordance with the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01, Section 43(2), the balances of the GATE Fund are shown in the general accounts. The accounts of the Fund are presented as Schedules F (i) and (ii) to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. ARICOM PETROLEUM FUND The CARICOM Petroleum Fund was established under Section 43(2) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01 (Legal Notice 302 dated November 23, 2006). In accordance with the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01, Section 43(2), the balances of the CARICOM Petroleum Fund are shown in the general accounts. The accounts of the Fund are presented as Schedules I (i) and (ii) to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities Worth noting in page 26: The Public Debt does not include the arrears of emoluments owed to Public Sector Employees which have not yet been satisfied by the use of any mechanism

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

100. Does the annual Audit Report(s) prepared by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) include an executive summary?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 100 asks whether the annual Audit Report includes an executive summary. Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. The Audit Report can be a fairly technical document, and an executive summary of the report's findings can help make it more accessible to the media and the public.*

*To answer "a," the Audit Report must include at least one executive summary summarizing the report's content. Answer "b" applies if the Audit Report does not include an executive summary, or the Audit Report is not made publicly available.*

**Answer:**

b. No, the annual Audit Report(s) does not include an executive summary.

**Source:**

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th April 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>  
page 1-5

**Comment:**

The AG report begins with an "Auditor's report" which presents a summary of the following: Report on the Financial Statements, including the Responsibility of the Treasury, Accounting Officers, Receivers of Revenue and Administering Officers, Auditor's Responsibility, Appropriation Accounts, Statement of Receipts and Disbursements, Accounts of Administering Officers; Opinion of the Auditor General; Report on Legal and Regulatory Requirements; Emphasis of matter and Submission of Report

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Although the "Auditor's report" advances a few figures and statements, information is too short and analysis too sparse as to be considered a proper executive summary.

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

101. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 101 asks whether the executive reports to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The ultimate purpose of audits is to verify that the budget was executed in a manner consistent with existing law, and to hold the government accountable for this execution and its future improvement. The extent to which audits achieve the latter depends on whether there is adequate and timely follow-up on the recommendations provided in the SAI's audit reports.*

*To answer "a," the executive must report publicly on the steps it has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address audit finding, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if the executive does not report at all on its steps to address audit findings.*

**Answer:**

d. No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings.

**Source:**

n/a

**Comment:**

The Executive does not make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations. In some instances, reports are made by the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature on their discussions concerning the Audit Report or sections of the Audit Report. According to the Standing Orders on the House of Representatives: Public Accounts Committee 72. (1) The Public Accounts Committee shall have the duty of examining, considering and reporting on- (a) the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by the Legislature to meet the public expenditure of this Territory; (b) such other accounts as may be referred to the Committee by the House or under anylaw; and (c) the report of the Auditor General on any Such accounts. (2) The Public Accounts Committee shall consist Public Accounts Committee 72.(1) The Public Accounts Committee shall have the duty of examining, considering and reporting on- (a) the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by the Legislature to meet the public expenditure of this Territory; (b) such other accounts as may be referred to the Committee by the House or under any law; and (c) the report of the Auditor General on any Such accounts. (2) The Public Accounts Committee shall consist of not less than six, and not more than ten, members inclusive of the member who is Chairman thereof

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For example; <http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p11-s5-J-20200603-PAC-R28.pdf> <http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p11-s5-J-20200623-PAC-R29.pdf> <http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p11-s5-J-20200623-PAC-R30.pdf> Note:

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29) Committee Type:Joint Committee Business Date Appointed:9 Nov 2020 Secretary: Keiba Jacob-Mottley; Hema Bhagaloo; Khisha Peterkin Email: [pac@ttparliament.org](mailto:pac@ttparliament.org) Notes: (1) The Public Accounts Committee shall have the duty of considering and reporting to the House on (a) appropriation accounts of moneys expended out of sums granted by Parliament to meet the public expenditure; (b) such other accounts as may be referred to the Committee by the House or as are authorized or required to be considered by the Committee under any Law; and (c) the report of the Auditor General on any such accounts. (2) In the performance of its duties under paragraph (1) of this Standing Order the Public Accounts Committee shall consider whether policy is carried out efficiently, effectively and economically and whether expenditure conforms to the authority which governs it.

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

102. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 102 asks whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or the legislature track actions by the executive to address audit recommendations. After audit results and recommendations are discussed and validated by the legislature, the executive is normally asked to take certain actions to address the audit findings. For accountability purposes, the public needs to be informed about the status of those actions, and steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations. In addition to the executive reporting on its actions (see Question 101), the SAI and legislature – as the key oversight institutions – have a responsibility to keep the public informed by tracking the executive's progress in addressing audit recommendations.*

*To answer "a," the SAI or legislature must report publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the SAI*



or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the SAI or legislature reports publicly on the steps the executive has taken, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if neither the SAI nor the legislature reports on the executive's steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

c. Yes, the SAI or legislature reports publicly on some audit recommendations.

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th April 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

Comment:

Individual areas of concern are detailed in the Audit report and recommendations made. For previous budget years, the AG report also provides an update of progress based on recommendations or lac thereof.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament releases periodically its examination of the Auditor General's Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. For example for the financial year 2018: <http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p11-s5-J-20200603-PAC-R28.pdf> (for the financial years 2019 and 2020 it seems it is still not released) In the section "Issues, Observations and Recommendations" the Committee identified both pervasive and individual issues, such as Accounts Partially Submitted or No Accounts Submitted, and proposed recommendations.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

103. Is there an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) that conducts budget analyses for the budget formulation and/or approval process?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 103 examines whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) exists that contributes budget analyses to the budget formulation and/or approval process. According to the Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions, adopted by the OECD Council in 2014, "independent fiscal institutions are publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance", and with "a forward-looking ex ante diagnostic task". In practice, they come in two main forms:*

- *Parliamentary budget offices (also known as PBOs) such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States (<https://www.cbo.gov/>), the Parliamentary Budget Office in South Africa (<https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliamentary-budget-office>), and the Center for Public Finance Studies in Mexico (Centro de Estudios de las Finanzas Públicas, <http://www.cefp.gob.mx/>); or*
- *Fiscal councils such as the Office for Budget Responsibility in the United Kingdom (<https://obr.uk/>) and the High Council for Public Finances in France (Haut Conseil des finances publiques, <https://www.hcfp.fr/>).*

*For more information, see von Trapp et al. 'Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions and Case Studies', OECD Journal on Budgeting 15:2 (special issue, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/budget-15-5jm2795tv625>.*

*To answer "a," there must be an IFI, and its independence must be set in law. In addition, it must have sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks. Answer "b" applies if an IFI exists, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources are insufficient to carry out its tasks. Answer "c" applies if an IFI exists, but its independence is not set in law and it lacks sufficient staffing and resources. Answer "d" applies if no IFI exists.*

*If the answer is "a," "b," or "c," please specify in the comments the name and type of IFI that exists (e.g., parliamentary budget office or fiscal council). If the answer is "a" or "b," identify the law that guarantees its independence, and provide evidence in support of the assessment of the adequacy of its staffing and resources. This can include the IFI's total budget allocation over recent years, any press reports that discuss perceived funding shortfalls, assessments by international organizations, and/or information from interviews with staff of the IFI.*

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI.

Source:

n/a

Comment:  
no IFI

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree  
Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, there is an IFI, but its independence is not set in law and its staffing and resources, including funding, are insufficient to carry out its tasks.  
Comments: Let's discuss it. Although I agree partially with the researcher, I wonder if we could consider the Financial Scrutiny Unit of the Parliament as a sort of IFI. <http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92> Same with the Public Accounts Committee, the Standing Finance Committee and the Financial Oversight Committees of the Parliament as a sort of IFIs since those entities play a role in the budget process including analysis and oversight. Certainly those committees are not autonomous and have a subordinate mandate.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

While these scrutiny units exist they cannot be considered "independent" as their membership consists of members of the Government (majority) and opposition members.

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's follow-up response, the existing answer choice of "d" is maintained.

104. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 104 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a role in producing the macroeconomic forecast (e.g., GDP growth, inflation, interest rates, etc.) and/or the fiscal forecast (revenues, expenditure, deficits, and debt), and if so, what kind of role it has. Macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasting is a typical core function across IFIs, but their role in forecasting takes several forms (von Trapp et al. 2016, p. 17 and Table 2). Some IFIs produce just a macroeconomic forecast, while others produce a complete fiscal forecast (which also typically requires an underlying macroeconomic forecast). In some cases, the fiscal forecast reflects continuation of current budget policies; such forecasts can be used by the legislature, the media, or the public to assess the projections in the executive's budget reflecting the government's policy proposals.*

*Some IFIs produce the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in the executive's budget. In other cases, IFIs do not prepare their own independent forecasts, but rather produce an assessment of the official estimates, or provide an opinion on, or endorsement of, the government's forecasts. Some others have no role at all in forecasting.*

*To answer "a", there must be an IFI that publishes both its own macroeconomic AND fiscal forecasts. Answer "b" applies if an IFI publishes its own macroeconomic OR fiscal forecast (but not both). Answer "c" applies if the IFI does not publish a macroeconomic or fiscal forecast, but rather publishes an assessment of the official forecasts produced by the executive and used in the budget. Choose option "d" if there is no IFI; or if there is an IFI that neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts for the budget.*

*Macroeconomic forecasts may include indicators relating to economic output and economic growth, inflation, and the labor market, amongst others. Fiscal forecasts may include estimates of revenues, expenditures, the budget balance, and debt. If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify which indicators and estimates are included in the forecasts and whether the forecast is used by government as the official forecast. If the answer is "c," please describe the nature and depth of the assessment (e.g., the length of the commentary, or whether it covers both economic and fiscal issues).*

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts produced by the executive.

Source:  
n/a

Comment:  
no IFI

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree that there are not any macroeconomic/fiscal forecasts issued by an IFI. However, as previously mentioned, I wonder if we could consider the Financial Scrutiny Unit of the Parliament as a sort of IFI. <http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92> Same with the Public Accounts Committee, the Standing Finance Committee and the Financial Oversight Committees of the Parliament as a sort of IFIs since those entities play a role in the budget process including analysis and oversight. Certainly those committees are not autonomous and have a subordinate mandate.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Per the researcher's follow-up response on Question 103, the existing answer choice of "d" is maintained.

105. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish its own costings of new policy proposals, to assess their impact on the budget?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 105 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a costing function that involves assessing the budgetary implications of new policy proposals for both revenues and expenditures, and if so, what kind of role it has. Many IFIs have a costing role, but with substantial diversity in the nature and extent of this work (von Trapp et al 2016, pp. 17-18 and Table 2). Some assess virtually all new policy proposals, while others cost only a selection of new policy proposals. Others only publish opinions on, or scrutinize the costings of, budget measures produced by the executive.*

*To answer "a," the IFI must publish its own costings of all (or virtually all) new policy proposals. Answer "b" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only for major new policy proposals – for instance, only those proposals that cost or save above a certain amount. Answer "c" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only on a limited number of proposals. This could occur, for instance, if the IFI lacked the capacity to assess proposals dealing with certain sectors. Instead of producing a cost estimate, it can also publish an assessment of the estimates produced by the executive. Answer "d" applies if there is no IFI, or if the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals or provide an assessment of the official costings of new policy proposals.*

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

no IFI

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree that there are not independent costing for new policy proposals. However, as previously mentioned, I wonder if we could consider the Financial Scrutiny Unit of the Parliament as a sort of IFI. <http://www.tparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92> Same with the Public Accounts Committee, the Standing Finance Committee and the Financial Oversight Committees of the Parliament as a sort of IFIs since those entities play a role in the budget process including analysis and oversight. Certainly those committees are not autonomous and have a subordinate mandate.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

The Financial Scrutiny unit and Public Accounts committee consist of members of the executive and opposition and therefore cannot be considered independent.

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's follow-up response, the existing answer choice of "d" is maintained.

106. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 106 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Almost all IFIs interact with the legislature in some form (von Trapp et al 2016, p. 18), but the intensity of the interaction varies. This question assesses this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the IFI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the IFI staff member in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). As evidence to support your answer, you can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the IFI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; and "c" for once or twice. Answer "d" should be selected if the head or a senior staff member of the IFI never took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature, or if there is no IFI.*

Answer:

d. Never, or there is no IFI.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

no IFI

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree, However, as previously mentioned, I wonder if we could consider the Financial Scrutiny Unit of the Parliament as a sort of IFI. <http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=92> Same with the Public Accounts Committee, the Standing Finance Committee and the Financial Oversight Committees of the Parliament as a sort of IFIs since those entities play a role in the budget process including analysis and oversight. Certainly those committees are not autonomous and have a subordinate mandate.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

These units cannot be considered as independent as they consist of members of the executive and opposition.

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's follow-up response, the existing answer choice of "d" is maintained.

107. Does the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 107 asks whether the legislature debated budget policies prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal for the most recent budget year before the research cut-off date. In general, prior to discussing the Executive's Budget Proposal for the coming year, the legislature should have an opportunity to review the government's broad budget priorities and fiscal parameters. Often times this information is laid out in a Pre-Budget Statement, which the executive presents to the legislature for debate. (See Questions 54-58.)*

*A number of countries conduct a pre-budget debate in the legislature around six months before the start of the budget year. In some cases, they adopt laws that guide the upcoming budget, for example the Budget Guidelines Law in Brazil and the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill in Sweden. A pre-budget debate can serve two main purposes: 1) to allow the executive to inform the legislature of its fiscal policy intentions by presenting updated reports on its annual and medium-term budget strategy and policy priorities; and 2) to establish "hard" multi-year fiscal targets or spending ceilings, which the government must adhere to when preparing its detailed spending estimates for the upcoming budget year.*

*To answer "a," the full legislature must debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.*

*Answer "b" applies if a legislative committee (but not the full legislature) debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, and approves recommendations for the budget. Option "b" also applies if, in addition to the action by the committee, the full legislature also debates budget policy in advance of the budget, but does not approve recommendations.*

*Answer "c" applies if the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but does not approve recommendations for the budget. Answer "d" applies if neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.*

*In your comment, please indicate the dates of the budget debate, and if both the full legislature and a legislative committee held a debate. Note that a debate does not need to be open to the public, but a public record of the meeting or a public notice that the meeting occurred is required. In addition, please indicate whether the budget debate was focused on a Pre-Budget Statement published by the Executive. If the Executive did not publish a Pre-Budget Statement, then please indicate what served as the focus of the legislature's debate (for instance, a report released by an IFI or some other institution).*

Answer:

d. No, neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

Comptroller of Accounts, Ministry of Finance, Accounting Manual (<http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Accounting%20Manual%20Comptroller%20of%20Accounts.pdf>) page 1 Standing Orders of the House of Representatives <http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/1094.pdf> (<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/1094.pdf>) Pages 45-50

Comment:

According to the Accounting Manual: "On receipt of the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, the Budget Division of the Ministry of Finance examines, analyses and holds discussions with Ministries, Departments and other Agencies for justification of expenditure. Adjustments are made where necessary. This examination and consultation process is done from May to the middle of September. The Minister of Finance seeks Cabinet's approval for specific measures after which the Budget is presented in Parliament. There is no formal pre-budget policy debate but the process does involve some degree of consideration whereby various Ministries and Departments and Officials of the Ministry of Finance have consultations. Only when the budget is approved by the Cabinet then the date of its presentation is announced in the House of Representatives.

Following the presentation of the Appropriation Bill, a motion for a second reading of the Appropriation Bill is a signal for the Minister of Finance to make his annual budget speech which, upon completion the date of the debate on the second reading is named which is no less than 2 clear days after the Budget Speech. Formal debate only takes place at this point, after which the Bill is also referred to the Finance Committee.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Let's discuss this. I partially agree. However it must be mentioned that there are several legislative committees monitoring and participating in the budget process (including ongoing oversight and post implementation oversight); such as the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Standing Finance Committee. Check: [https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted. Per the PDF cited (in particular, the flow chart on page 3), the legislature's debate begins after the tabling of the budget.

108. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the Executive's Budget Proposal?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 108 examines how far in advance of the start of the most recent budget year the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to the legislature far enough in advance to allow the legislature time to review it properly, or at least three months prior to the start of the fiscal year. (See, for instance, Principle 2.2.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>)).*

*For the purposes of responding to this question, if – and only if – the most recent budget submission occurred later than usual as a result of a particular event, such as an election, please use a more normal year as the basis for the response. If, however, delays have been observed for more than one budget year, and the legislature has not received the Executive's Budget Proposal in a timely manner on more than one occasion in the last three years, then "d" will be the appropriate answer.*

*To answer "a," the legislature must receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least three months in advance of the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature does not receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month prior to the start of the budget year, or does not receive it at all.*

Answer:

d. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month before the start of the budget year, or does not receive it all.

Source:

Constitution of the Republic Of Trinidad and Tobago Chapter 8, Section 113 (1) and (2)  
<http://laws.gov.tt/pdf/Constitution.pdf>

BUDGET STATEMENT 2021

Resetting the Economy for Growth and Innovation. Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance 5th October 2020.  
Available on the internet October 5th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Budget-Statement-2021-1.pdf>

Comment:

Chapter 8, Section 113 (1) and (2) of the Constitution states: (1) "The Minister responsible for finance causes to be prepared and laid before the House of Representatives before or not later than thirty days after the commencement of each financial year, estimates of the revenues and expenditure of Trinidad and Tobago for that year." Upon approval by the Cabinet, the Minister of Finance announces in the House of Representatives, the date of the "Budget Day", i.e the date on which the Budget Speech will be delivered by him. The practice has been that the Budget Speech which is the full legislature's and public's first hearing of the budget proposal usually takes place very close to or even on the closure of the fiscal year, and

at times shortly after the close of the fiscal year. The legislature received the budget proposal on October 5th 2020. Trinidad and Tobago's Fiscal/Budget year begins October 1st and ends the 30th September.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Budget Debate: • The Minister of Finance gives Budget speech • Budget documents are distributed – online and print • Opposition responds after a minimum of three clear days • Budget debate – maximum five days • Standing Finance Committee (SFC) convenes after debate ends • The Committee is allotted five (5) days to complete its work.

[https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

109. When does the legislature approve the Executive's Budget Proposal?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 109 examines when the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be approved by the legislature before the start of the fiscal year the budget proposal refers to. This gives the executive time to implement the budget in its entirety, particularly new programs and policies.*

*In some countries, the expenditure and revenue estimates of the Executive's Budget Proposal are approved separately; for purposes of this question, at least the expenditure estimates must be approved. Further, approval of the budget implies approval of the full-year budget, not just a short-term continuation of spending and revenue authority.*

*To answer "a," the legislature must approve the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month before the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month after the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.*

Answer:

c. The legislature approves the budget less than one month after the start of the budget year.

Source:

Standing Order of the House of Representatives  
(<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/1094.pdf>) Section 63-65 Pages 45-47

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020 was assented to 28th October 2020:

<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Comment:

In Trinidad and Tobago a budget must be presented within one month of the opening of the fiscal year (Article 113.(1) of the Constitution - <http://laws.gov.tt/pdf/Constitution.pdf>), though the government may, in practice, choose to present it earlier than this and normally the budget is presented a few weeks before the end of the fiscal year. Sections 63-66 of the Standing Orders of House of Representatives also outline the stipulations for the scheduling of presenting and approving the appropriation bill, 48. (1) Subject to the Provisions of this Standing Order, the Member in charge of the Bill may, at the conclusion of the Proceedings on any stage of the Bill, either name a day to be appointed for the next stage of the Bill or move that the next stage be taken forthwith. (2) An interval of not less than five days must elapse between the first and second reading of a Bill, unless the House, on motion made and question put, agree to proceed with the Bill at an earlier date or forthwith. (3) Subject to paragraph 2 of this Order, no Bill shall be read a second time until it has been printed and circulated to Members. The debate is first initiated in the House of Representatives as it is where money bills are introduced; when debate has been completed, the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates are considered in Finance Committee. Standing Order (65)1 of the House of Representatives allows a maximum of seven days for debate on the Appropriation Bill plus any days conserved from the debate on the second reading (in practice this time period is rarely utilized). The Budget debate may take place after the beginning of the Budget year October 1st as is currently taking place. Standing Order 65 (1) of the House Of Representatives allows a maximum of 7 days for debate on the Appropriate Bill in the Finance Committee.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: 1st Session of the 12th Parliament The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Bill, 2020 An Act to provide for the service of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ending on the 30th day of September, 2021 Introduced on: 05-Oct-2020 3rd Reading and Passage (Representatives) : 22-Oct-2020 3rd Reading and Passage (Senate) : 27-Oct-2020 Assent President of the Republic: 28-Oct-2020

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=28&id=893>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

110. Does the legislature have the authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 110 examines the legislature's power to amend—as opposed to simply accept or reject—the budget proposal presented by the executive. This question is about legal authority rather than actions the legislature takes in practice. The legislature's powers to amend the budget can vary substantially across countries.*

*The "a" response is appropriate only if there are no restrictions on the right of the legislature to modify the Executive's Budget Proposal, including its right to change the size of the proposed deficit or surplus. The "b" response would be appropriate if, for instance, the legislature is restricted from changing the deficit or surplus, but it still has the power to increase or decrease funding and revenue levels. The more limited "c" response would apply if, for instance, the legislature can only re-allocate spending within the totals set in the Executive's Budget Proposal or can only decrease funding levels or increase revenues. Finally, response "d" would apply if the legislature may not make any changes (or only small technical changes), or if amendments must first be approved by the executive. In these cases, the legislature is essentially only able to approve or reject the budget as a whole. If the answer is "b" or "c", please indicate the nature of the amendment powers available to the Parliament and how they are limited.*

**Answer:**

a. Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal.

**Source:**

Section 112 (2) Standing Orders of the House of Representatives (<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/1094.pdf>) Page 47 Section 66, page 48-49 Section 67 and page 50, Sections 68-70.

**Comment:**

The Appropriation Bill has to be passed by a simple majority in both houses. There is also accommodations made in the Standing Orders of the HORs which permits amendments to the Bill. A review is taken within a six month period to ascertain whether supplementation and/or variations of fund appropriated by Parliament is required or if there is a need to limit or suspend expenditure. If it is determined as necessary, then a Supplementary Finance Bill is introduced in Parliament and the approval process is repeated. While this exists in law, the parliament of Trinidad and Tobago is not considered a powerful player in the budget process; because of built in majority in the Parliament, budgets are rarely altered.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: • Budget tabled in the Legislature • Consideration by parliamentary committees • Parliament accepts, amends or rejects budget  
[https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf)

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

111. During the most recent budget approval process, did the legislature use its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 111 assesses whether any formal authority of the legislature to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal is used in practice. The responses to this question should be determined based on action by the legislature related to the Enacted Budget used in the OBS. Choose answer "a" if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal during the most recent budget approval process, and amendments were adopted (all, or at least some of them). Answer "a" also applies if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but the amendments were rejected by executive veto. Answer "b" applies if the legislature used its authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, but none of these amendments were adopted. Answer "c" applies if the legislature has the authority in law to amend the budget, but no amendments were proposed during its consideration. Answer "d" applies when the legislature does not have any authority to amend the budget (that is, Question 110 is answered "d").*

*If the answer is "a" or "b", please specify in the comments the number of amendments introduced by the legislature (and in the case of an "a" response, the number adopted, or if applicable, information about an executive veto) and describe their nature. For example, did the amendments result in an increase or decrease of the deficit? What were the most significant amendments to revenues and to expenditures in terms of the sums involved? How did amendments affect the composition of expenditures? If the answer is "a", please specify which amendments were adopted, and provide evidence for it.*

**Answer:**

c. No, while the legislature has the authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, no amendments were offered.

**Source:**

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Bill 2020

Available 05th October 2020  
<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/b2020h11g.pdf>

The Appropriation (Financial Year 2021) Act 2020  
Assented to 28th October 2020  
<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/a2020-24g.pdf>

Comment:  
There are no variations between the proposal and the passed budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The whole documentation available at: <http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=28&id=893> The budget was approved and passed: 22 votes for, 0 votes against, 19 abstentions (Representatives) 23 votes for, 0 votes against, 6 abstentions (Senate)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

112. During the last budget approval process, did a specialized budget or finance committee in the legislature examine the Executive's Budget Proposal?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 112 assesses the role of a specialized budget or finance committee during the budget approval stage. Effective committee involvement is an essential condition for legislative influence in the budget process. Specialized committees provide opportunities for individual legislators to gain relevant expertise, and to examine budgets and policy in depth. Yet, the involvement of committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures have separate committees to examine spending and tax proposals, while others have a single finance committee. Not all legislatures have a specialized budget or finance committee to examine the budget. In addition, there can be differences in the time available for the committee's analysis of the budget.*

*A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, therefore it must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget.*

*Response "a" requires that, in the last budget approval process, a specialized budget or finance committee had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such a committee examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if a committee examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.*

*Please specify in your comment the name of the committee and the number of days it had available to examine the budget. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a copy of the report. Please note also if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.*

Answer:

c. Yes, a specialized budget or finance committee examined the Executive's Budget Proposal, but it did not publish a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:

Standing Orders of the House of Representatives  
(<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/1094.pdf>) Pages 45-50

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29)

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=336&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=336&pid=29)

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=337&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=337&pid=29)

Comment:

64. (1) There shall be a Committee of the whole House, to be called the Finance Committee. The deliberations of Finance Committee shall not take place in public. (2) The Finance Committee shall consider and on all proposals for the expenditure from public revenue or other funds which are not included in the Annual Estimates, including proposals for supplementary and unforeseen expenditure.

A standing finance committee discussed the EBP but apart from the hansard, there were no published findings or recommendations.

Peer Reviewer



Opinion: Agree

Comments: All the documents and transcripts are available at: <http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=28&id=893>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

113. During the last approval process, did legislative committees, responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.), examine spending in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the sector for which they are responsible?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 113 assesses the role of committees of the legislature that are responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.) during the budget approval stage. The role of sectoral committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures do not involve them in the budget approval process, while others do. In addition, the time available for committee analysis differs.*

*A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, so therefore must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget. Response "a" requires that sector committees had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and published a report with findings and recommendations prior the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such committees examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if sectoral committees examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where sectoral committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.*

*Please note that the examination of sectoral budgets by a specialized budget or finance committee is assessed in Question 112 and should not be considered for this question.*

*Please provide in the comments a brief overview of the committee structure and specify the number of days that sectoral committees had available to examine the budget and to publish their reports. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a sample copy of at least one of the reports. Please note if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.*

*For purposes of responding to this question, use those sectoral committees that are best performing – that is, the ones that examine the budget the longest and that publish reports.*

**Answer:**

d. No, sector committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

**Source:**

Standing Orders of the House of Representatives  
(<http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/1094.pdf>)  
Page 51

<http://laws.gov.tt/pdf/Constitution.pdf>

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=337&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=337&pid=29)

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=336&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=336&pid=29)

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29)

**Comment:**

"There shall be a Public Accounts Committee which shall consist of not less than six nor more than ten members. The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee shall be a member of the Opposition in the House, if any, and if willing to act. The Chairman and other members may comprise an equal number of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate as the House of Representatives may determine. Where the members of the Opposition in the House of Representatives are unwilling to act as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, a member of the Opposition in the Senate shall be appointed and where the members of the Opposition in the Senate are unwilling so to act, one of the Senators appointed by the President under section 40(2)(c) shall be appointed Chairman. The Public Accounts Committee shall consider and report to the House of Representatives on— appropriation accounts of moneys expended out of sums granted by Parliament to meet the public expenditure of Trinidad and Tobago; such other accounts as may be referred to the Committee by the House of Representatives or as are authorised or required to be considered by the committee under any other enactment; and the report of the Auditor General on any such accounts."

Standing Order 72 of the House of Representatives states:

"The Public Accounts Committee shall have the duty of examining, considering and reporting on— the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by the Legislature to meet the public expenditure of this Territory; such other accounts as may be referred to the Committee by the House or under any law; and the report of the Auditor General on any Such accounts. The Public Accounts Committee shall consist of not less than six, and not more than ten, members inclusive of the member who is Chairman thereof."

While such provisions are made, in practice this may not always take place. In the last approval process, it did take place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=28&id=893> It seems the Standing Finance Committee is the nexus for the budget process. The ministers and heads of all the different sectors attend the committee's hearings to present their individual budgets for the appropriation bill.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

114. In the past 12 months, did a committee of the legislature examine in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 114 is about legislative oversight of budget execution. It assesses whether and how often a committee examined the implementation of the budget during the budget execution period (i.e., financial year) for which it was approved, and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. This question does not apply to the ex post review of implementation following the end of the budget year as part of the audit stage, which is assessed separately. Nor does it apply to the legislature's review of the budget that it may undertake as part of the process of considering a supplemental budget during the year. In-year monitoring by the legislature will be affected by the frequency that the executive publishes In-Year Reports.*

*To answer "a," a committee must have examined in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget at least three times during the course of the relevant budget year and published reports with findings and recommendations. Answer "b" applies where this occurred only once or twice during the year.*

*Exception: If a legislature is in session only twice during the year, and it examines the implementation of the budget during both sessions, then it would be eligible for an "a" response.*

*Choose "c" if a committee examined in-year implementation (without regard to frequency), but did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined in-year implementation.*

*If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation.*

*For purposes of responding to this question, if more than one committee holds in-year reviews of the budget, use the committee that is best performing – that is, the one that examines in-year implementation the most times and that publishes a report.*

Answer:

d. No, a committee did not examine in-year implementation.

Source:

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=337&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=337&pid=29)

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=336&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=336&pid=29)

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29)

Comment:

Standing committees examine audit issues and supplemental requests but not in year enactment.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, a committee examined in-year implementation, but it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations.

Comments: I am not sure, however it seems the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee conducts some kind of oversight on the budget implementation. Let's discuss this. Implementation (PAAC): • Funds appropriated to departments • Finance Ministry monitors spending • Request for Legislative approval of adjustment budget if necessary Audit (PAC & PA(E)C) • Supreme audit institution assesses departmental accounts and performance • Audit reports published and reviewed by Parliament Ongoing Oversight - PAAC • Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC): • Chaired by the Speaker of the House • considers and reports to the House on: – the budgetary expenditure of Government agencies to ensure that expenditure is embarked upon in accordance with parliamentary approval; – the budgetary expenditure of Government agencies as it occurs and keeps Parliament informed of how the budget allocation is being implemented; and – the administration of Government agencies to determine hindrances to their efficiency and to make recommendations to the Government for improvement of public administration. • Conducts public hearings [https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Agreed with peer reviewer but these are not part of in-year enactments but rather based on audit issues and supplemental requests.

IBP Comment

In light of the researcher's follow-up comment, the existing response of "d" is maintained.

115. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units that receive explicit funding in the Enacted Budget, and is it legally required to do so?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 115 examines whether the executive seeks approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and whether it is legally required to do so.*

*In some countries, the executive has the power in law to adjust funding levels for specific appropriations during the execution of the budget. This question examines rules around shifting funds between administrative units (ministries, departments, or agencies) or whatever funding unit (or "vote") is specified in the Enacted Budget.*

*The conditions under which the executive may exercise its discretion to shift funds should be clearly defined in publicly available regulations or law. In addition, the amount of funds that the executive is allowed to transfer between administrative units should not be so excessive as to undermine the accountability of the executive to the legislature.*

*To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before shifting funds, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to shift funds between administrative units and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. Answer "d" also applies if the executive is authorized to shift an amount considered so excessive as to undermine accountability (roughly equal to 3 percent of total budgeted expenditures). A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the shifting of funds after it has already occurred.*

*In the comments, please indicate any law or regulation that provides the executive with standing authority to shift funds between administrative units and, if so, describe that authority. Similarly, legislative approval for shifting funds between administrative units typically occurs with the adoption of legislation such as a supplemental budget. But if other formal procedures for gaining approval from the legislature exist, then please provide information about that approval process.*

Answer:

c. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, but in practice the executive shifts funds before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=17&id=321&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=17&id=321&pid=29)

Comment:

The Standing Finance Committee is established by House of Representatives Standing Order 82(1) of the House of Representatives Standing Orders. It is the duty of the Committee to consider the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill. The Committee is also empowered by House of Representatives Standing Order 87(1) to consider and report on all proposals for expenditure which are not included in the Annual Estimates including proposals for supplementary and unforeseen expenditure.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The governments must request for Legislative approval of adjustments in the budget.

[https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf) For example; REPORT OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES on the Consideration of Proposals for the Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2021 <http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p12-s1-H-20210609-SFC-r1.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

116. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue (that is, amounts higher than originally anticipated) that may become available during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 116 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if additional revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, which often happens in oil/mineral-dependent countries, and it was not accounted for in the Enacted Budget, there should be a procedure in place to ensure that the legislature approves any proposed use of these "new" funds. If such requirements are not in place, the*

*executive might deliberately underestimate revenue in the budget proposal it submits to the legislature, in order to have additional resources to spend at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.*

*To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before spending any funds resulting from higher-than-expected revenues, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if prior legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to spend excess revenue and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the additional spending after it has already occurred.*

*Typically, legislative approval of additional spending beyond what was reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur with the adoption of a supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.*

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and in practice the executive spends these funds before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=17&id=321&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=17&id=321&pid=29)

Heritage and Stabilization Fund Act (2007) (<http://www.centralbank.org.tt/pdf/Other/Heritage%20and%20Stabilisation%20Fund.pdf>) Pages 7

Heritage and Stabilization Fund  
Quarterly Investment Report.

Produced by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago

<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Heritage-and-Stabilisation-Fund-HSF-Quarterly-Investment-Report-October-2020-December-2020.pdf>

Comment:

HSF which was established by Act No. 6 of 2007 and provides that the savings and investments from surplus petroleum revenues be used where necessary to:

- a. cushion the impact on or sustain public expenditure capacity during periods of revenue downturn whether caused by a fall in prices of crude oil or natural gas;
- b. generate an alternate stream of income so as to support public expenditure capacity as a result of revenue downturn caused by the depletion of non-renewable petroleum resources; and
- c. provide a heritage for future generations, of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, from savings and investment income derived from the excess petroleum revenues.

As the country continues to experience severe revenue shortfalls as a result of depressed petroleum prices, the HSF will be carefully used by the Government to ensure the country's financial stability.

Both drawdowns from the HSF were done in accordance with the HSF legislation, in particular, Section 15 of the HSF Act which states:

"(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), where the petroleum revenues collected in any financial year fall below the estimated petroleum revenues for that financial year by at least ten per cent, withdrawals may be made from the Fund as follows, whichever is the lesser amount:

- (a) either sixty percent of the amount of the shortfall of petroleum revenues for that year; or
- (b) twenty-five percent of the balance standing to the credit of the Fund at the beginning of that year.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), no withdrawal may be made from the Fund in any financial year, where the balance standing to the credit of the Fund would fall below one billion dollars in the currency of the United States of America, if such withdrawal were to be made.

The terms of withdrawals are outlined above but it does not specify whether approval is required.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: However: REPORT OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES on the Consideration of Proposals for the Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2021 <http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p12-s1-H-20210609-SFC-r1.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

117. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls (that is, revenues lower than originally anticipated) or other reasons during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 117 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to cutting spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls or for any other reason, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if less revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, the legislature should approve or reject any proposed reductions in expenditures that are implemented as a result. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might substantially change the composition of the budget at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.*

*Typically, legislative approval of proposals to reduce spending below the levels reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur as part of the supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.*

*To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before implementing spending cuts in response to revenue shortfalls or for other reasons, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive received legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to obtain legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to implement such cuts and the executive does not obtain such approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the spending cuts after they have already occurred.*

**Answer:**

c. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, but in practice the executive implements these cuts before seeking approval from the legislature.

**Source:**

2020 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION AND MID YEAR REVIEW STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HONOURABLE COLM IMBERT, MP  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Produced JUNE 12, 2020 made available June 12th 2020  
<https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Supplementary-Appropriation-and-Mid-Year-Review-Statement-2020.pdf>

**Comment:**

The 2020 supplementary appropriation is presented to parliament for debate and passing into law.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also, for example; REPORT OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES on the Consideration of Proposals for the Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2021 <http://www.tparliament.org/reports/p12-s1-H-20210609-SFC-r1.pdf>

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

118. Did a committee of the legislature examine the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 118 is about ex post oversight following the implementation of the budget. It probes whether a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. A key issue is how soon after the SAI releases the report does it legislature review it. This question does not apply to the legislative scrutiny of in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period, which is assessed separately. Also, the question is asking specifically about the SAI's annual report on the execution of the budget, not about other audit reports that the SAI may produce. (This is the Audit Report used for responding to Question 98.)*

*To answer "a," a legislative committee must have examined the annual Audit Report within three months of it being released by the SAI, and then published a report (or reports) with findings and recommendations. (Note that the three-month period should only take into account time when the legislature is in session.)*

*Answer "b" applies when the committee examines it within six months of it being released (but more than three months), and then published a report with its findings and recommendations. Choose "c" if a committee examined the annual Audit Report more than six months after it became available or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined the annual Audit Report.*

*If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed the Audit Report, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation. Answers "a," "b," or "c" may be selected if the Audit Report is produced by the SAI but not made publicly available.*

Answer:

c. Yes, a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget, but it did so after the report had been available for more than six months or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2019 (1ST OCTOBER, 2018 to 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Available 29th April 2020

<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%20Report%202019.pdf>

[http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29)

14 Apr 2021 - 10:30 am

6th Meeting - Meeting Summary - Verbatim - YouTube

Inquiry into the Audited Financial Statements of the National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago (NIBTT) for the financial years 2014 to 2017.

Venue: 10:00 a.m. (in camera), 10:30 a.m. (in public) Virtual Meeting

Type: Open to the Public

Televised

10 Mar 2021 - 10:30 am

5th Meeting - Meeting Summary - Verbatim - YouTube

Continued follow up on the implementation of the recommendations in the Twenty-Fifth Report of the PAC: Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the National Lotteries Control Board (NLCB) for the years 2008 to 2012 and the NLCB's expenditure and internal controls during this period.

Venue: 10:00 a.m. (in camera), 10:30 a.m. (in public) Virtual Meeting

Type: Open to the Public

Televised

Comment:

The existing Public Accounts Committee was established November 2020 and to date has produced no reports on the Auditor General Report produced in April 2020. Meetings however were held and televised.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

119. Was the process of appointing (or re-appointing) the current head of the SAI carried out in a way that ensures his or her independence?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 119 concerns the appointment process of the current head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). Appointment procedures vary greatly across countries, as well as across different types of SAIs. Moreover, conventions and informal practices can greatly affect the de facto independence of the head of the SAI. While these factors make it difficult to devise a single metric against which all SAIs can be assessed with regard to this particular aspect, this question focuses on whether the legislature or judiciary must appoint or approve the appointment of the head of the SAI as a way to ensure the SAI's independence from the executive. However, if the appointment is carried out in another way that nonetheless ensures the independence of the SAI head, then that approach could be also considered.*

*To answer "a," the legislature or judiciary must appoint (or re-appoint) the head of the SAI, or approve the recommendation of the executive, as a way that ensure his or her independence from the executive. (As noted above, alternative approaches may also be acceptable.) Choose "b" if the appointment process does not ensure the independence of the head of the SAI, e.g. the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.*

*Irrespective of which answer you selected, provide a description of how the head of the SAI is appointed.*

Answer:

b. No, the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Source:

The Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Sections 116 and 117; and The Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01

<http://laws.gov.tt/pdf/Constitution.pdf>

The Exchequer and Audit Act

<http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/69.01.pdf>, and cite Clause 39

Comment:

The Auditor General is appointed by the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago after consultation with the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition and may hold office up to 65 years and may be removed from office only on certain grounds and after a prescribed procedure. Those provisions are entrenched in the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The AG in office shall be at the age of 65 and she may not be removed from office except where a Tribunal appointed by the President specifically recommends in the instance that she is found unfit to carry out her responsibilities (restricted to reasons of incompetence, poor health or criminal conduct).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: I mostly agree. However, the wording of section 117 of the Constitution seems to indicate that the President must get some sort of agreement/approval from the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition before he appoints the Auditor General... 117. (1) The Auditor General shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and shall hold office in accordance with section 136.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

The comment from the peer reviewer is well noted; in light of the use of the term "consultation," and to ensure consistency across survey countries, the existing response of "b" is maintained.

120. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?

*GUIDELINES:*

*Question 120 covers the manner in which the head or senior members of the SAI may be removed from office. This question draws on best practices identified in the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>), including measures intended to guarantee the office's independence from the executive.*

*To answer "a," the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the head of the SAI is removed. For example, the legislature or judiciary may give final consent following a certain external process, such as a criminal proceeding. So while the executive may initiate a criminal proceeding, the final consent of a member of the judiciary – or a judge – is necessary to render a verdict of wrongdoing that may lead to the removal from office of the head of the SAI. Answer "b" applies if the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.*

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before he or she is removed.

Source:

The Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Sections 116 and 117; and The Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01

Comment:

The Auditor General is appointed by the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago after consultation with the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition and may hold office up to 65 years and may be removed from office only on certain grounds and after a prescribed procedure. Those provisions are entrenched in the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The AG in office shall be at the age of 65 and she may not be removed from office except where a Tribunal appointed by the President specifically recommends in the instance that she is found unfit to carry out her responsibilities (restricted to reasons of incompetence, poor health or criminal conduct).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: However; The Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01 page 9: (2) Where the Auditor General is removed from office under the Constitution the Minister shall make a full statement of the reasons therefor at the first opportunity to Parliament

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

121. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 121 asks who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). To ensure objective audits of government budgets, another important component of the SAI's independence from the executive is the extent to which the SAI's budget is determined by a body other than the executive, and whether the SAI has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate.

Answer "a" applies if the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate, AND either the SAI determines its own budget and then submits it to the executive (which accepts it with little or no change) or directly to the legislature, or the budget of the SAI is determined directly by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body). Answer "b" applies if the SAI's budget is determined by the executive (absent a recommendation from the SAI), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "c" applies if the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body) determines the SAI's budget, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "d" applies if the executive determines the SAI's budget, and the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Please provide evidence in support of the assessment that the funding level is or is not broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

**Answer:**

b. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

**Source:**

The Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
[https://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/Alphabetical\\_List/lawspdfs/1.01.pdf](https://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/Alphabetical_List/lawspdfs/1.01.pdf)

A Political Economy Analysis of the Budgetary process in Trinidad and Tobago (Sookram and Watson 2012)

[https://www.cbvs.sr/ccmf/index\\_files/ccmf\\_papers/Political%20economy%20analysis%20of%20budgetary%20process\\_Sookram%20&%20Watson.pdf](https://www.cbvs.sr/ccmf/index_files/ccmf_papers/Political%20economy%20analysis%20of%20budgetary%20process_Sookram%20&%20Watson.pdf)

**Comment:**

The Auditor General's Department is not a part of the Ministry of Finance. Under section 116(6) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Office of the Auditor General is an independent office, not subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority. The AG is appointed by the President after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. Her tenure in office shall be at the age of 65 and she may not be removed from office except where a Tribunal appointed by the President specifically recommends in the instance that she is found unfit to carry out her responsibilities (restricted to reasons of incompetence, poor health or criminal conduct). The salary of the AG is charged directly to the Consolidated Fund. The salary of the AG may be considered statutory obligation and direct charges such that it is not subject to any discretionary adjustments of the appropriation process (Sookram and Watson 2012). The Auditor General is recorded as a "Receiver of Revenue."

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments:

[https://www.cbvs.sr/ccmf/index\\_files/ccmf\\_papers/Political%20economy%20analysis%20of%20budgetary%20process\\_Sookram%20&%20Watson.pdf](https://www.cbvs.sr/ccmf/index_files/ccmf_papers/Political%20economy%20analysis%20of%20budgetary%20process_Sookram%20&%20Watson.pdf)

Also in the Constitution: (5) The Auditor General shall be provided with a staff adequate for the efficient discharge of his functions

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

122. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have the discretion in law to undertake those audits it may wish to?

**GUIDELINES:**

Question 122 explores the scope of the investigative powers of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) as prescribed in law.

Question 97 asks which of the three types of audits – financial, compliance, and performance – the SAI conducts. This question asks if the SAI is constrained by law (rather than by a lack of capacity or an inadequate budget) from undertaking any form of audit or investigating irregularities in any program or activity.

There are numerous examples of limitations. For instance, some SAIs are not permitted by their legal mandate to audit joint ventures or other public-private arrangements. Others are only allowed to undertake financial audits, precluded from conducting performance or value-for-money audits. The SAIs in some countries do not have the legal mandate to review arrangements involving oil or stabilization funds, or other types of special or extra-budgetary funds. The SAI may also not have the ability to audit commercial projects involving the public and private sector.

To answer "a," the SAI must have full discretion in law to decide which audits to undertake. Answer "b" applies if some limitations exist, but the SAI enjoys significant discretion to undertake those audits it wishes to. Answer "c" applies if the SAI has some discretion, but significant legal limitations exist. Answer "d" applies if the SAI has no power at all to choose which audits to undertake

Consulting the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>) may be useful in answering this question as its provisions serve to define the appropriate scope of a SAI's legal mandate and jurisdiction.



Answer:

a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake.

Source:

Section 25(4) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01 (<http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/69.01.pdf>)

Comment:

Section 25(4): "The Auditor General may at any time if it appears to him desirable, transmit a special report to the Minister for presentation in like manner to Parliament. Such special report may be made on any matter incidental to his powers and duties under this Act."

Recently there has been some contention with the Inland revenue division such that it was noted in the Auditor General Report of 2020 that: Section 4 of the Income Tax Act, Chapter 75:01 is the provision that sets out the official secrecy requirements relating to the income or items of the income of any person. To this end, the interpretation and application by the Board of Inland Revenue of the secrecy provisions of section 4 of the Income Tax Act, have continued to pose a challenge to the audit of revenue at the Inland Revenue Division.

1.9 The Attorney General in 2015, assured the Auditor General that the necessary steps were being taken to ensure that the Auditor General's access to the information could be facilitated.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also in the Constitution - Section 116: (2) The public accounts of Trinidad and Tobago and of all officers, Courts and authorities of Trinidad and Tobago shall be audited and reported on annually by the Auditor General, and for that purpose the Auditor General or any person authorised by him in that behalf shall have access to all books, records, returns and other documents relating to those accounts. (3) The Auditor General is hereby empowered to carry out audits of the accounts, balance sheets and other financial statements of all enterprises that are owned or controlled by or on behalf of the State.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

123. Are the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) reviewed by an independent agency?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 123 assesses whether and to what extent the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) are subject to review by an independent agency. The latter could be a peer SAI, an international organization, an academic institution with relevant expertise, or an independent domestic agency with quality assurance functions in the area of financial reporting.*

*To answer "a," an independent agency must conduct and publish a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis. Answer "b" applies if a review was carried out within the past five years, and published, but it is not conducted annually, but. Choose answer "c" if the SAI has an internal unit that reviews the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis, but an independent agency does not conduct such a review. Answer "d" applies if the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.*

*If the answer is either "a" or "b," please specify the name of the independent agency and when last it conducted such a review, and provide a copy of the published report. If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the unit within the SAI that is tasked with conducting such reviews.*

Answer:

c. No, but a unit within the SAI conducts a review of the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis.

Source:

<http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/content/review>

Comment:

"The audit work is subjected to several levels of review in order to ensure a high quality of output. 1.The team leader reviews and directs the work of the team members while in the field and produces a summary report called the "Examiner's Report." 2.Another review is conducted by a senior Officer and review notes and a draft Audit Report are produced. 3.A final review is done at the level of Assistant Auditor General who may amend the draft Audit Report as necessary. A recommendation is made to the Auditor General. 4.The Auditor General examines their commendations in the context of the findings and decides on the form of the Report." In addition, Under Section 41 of the Exchequer and Audit Act,the Treasury (Minister of Finance), audits the accounts and financial statements of the Auditor General's Department.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

124. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

**GUIDELINES:**

*Question 124 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Many SAIs interact with the legislature in some form, but the nature and intensity of the interaction varies. This question probes this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the SAI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the SAI representative in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). You can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the SAI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; "c" for once or twice, and "d" for never.*

**Answer:**

c. Rarely (i.e., once or twice).

**Source:**

14 Apr 2021 - 10:30 am

6th Meeting - Meeting Summary - Verbatim - YouTube

Inquiry into the Audited Financial Statements of the National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago (NIBTT) for the financial years 2014 to 2017.

Venue: 10:00 a.m. (in camera), 10:30 a.m. (in public) Virtual Meeting

Type: Open to the Public

Televised

10 Mar 2021 - 10:30 am

5th Meeting - Meeting Summary - Verbatim - YouTube

Continued follow up on the implementation of the recommendations in the Twenty-Fifth Report of the PAC: Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the National Lotteries Control Board (NLCB) for the years 2008 to 2012 and the NLCB's expenditure and internal controls during this period.

Venue: 10:00 a.m. (in camera), 10:30 a.m. (in public) Virtual Meeting

Type: Open to the Public

Televised

**Comment:**

Meetings were held to discuss specific Departments that were audited.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It seems so: [http://www.ttparliament.org/committee\\_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29](http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=335&pid=29)

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

**IBP Comment**

To align with the question methodology, meetings from the 12 months \*prior\* to the OBS research cutoff date of 31 December 2020 should be cited. With this standard, the existing response of "c" is maintained; there is one meeting in which the Auditor General and other SAI staff appeared in front of the Public Accounts Committee: <http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/news/mr34BA0B.pdf>

125. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation of the annual budget (prior to the budget being tabled in parliament)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.*

*The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:*

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations\\_course/IAP2\\_P2\\_Spectrum\\_FINAL.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf).

*Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in the formulation of the annual budget, including*

annual pre-budget discussions. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as spending and tax policy, funding and revenue levels, and macro-fiscal planning .

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government officials. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

National Tripartite Advisory Council (NTAC)  
<https://www.molsed.gov.tt/index.php/key-relationships/tripartism>

Comment:

The budgetary process is described as ostensibly "a consultative one" in which the various interest groups have an opportunity to submit proposals. This ad hoc process is more a requirement by custom rather than law. Meetings and submitted budget proposals by such interest groups take place behind "closed doors" such as Business Associations and the National Tripartite Advisory Council. Informal "Cottage meetings" also takes place at the community levels but without formal reporting of outcomes or decisions, transcriptions of such meetings are not available although they may involve members of the Executive.

There are no evidence of such inputs or outcomes of these meetings as they tend to take place behind "closed doors".

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://observatorionplanificacion.cepal.org/en/institutions/national-tripartite-advisory-committee-ntac-trinidad-and-tobago> It is worth noting there has been some controversy around the NTC as of late: <https://www.cnc3.co.tt/trade-unions-say-they-wont-re-join-tripartite-body/>  
[https://trinidadexpress.com/newsextra/why-did-trade-unions-pull-out-of-the-ntac/article\\_49d4f73c-87fc-11eb-b203-ef575ffc843c.html](https://trinidadexpress.com/newsextra/why-did-trade-unions-pull-out-of-the-ntac/article_49d4f73c-87fc-11eb-b203-ef575ffc843c.html)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

126. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive take concrete steps to include vulnerable and under-represented parts of the population in the formulation of the annual budget?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on the executive's efforts to seek out the views of members of the public from socially vulnerable groups and/or who are underrepresented in the process.*

*To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from at least one vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organization representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives of vulnerable/underrepresented groups.*

*Answer "b" applies if the executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.*

**Answer:**

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

**Source:**

Equal Opportunity Act ([http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/alphabetical\\_list/lawspdfs/22.03.pdf](http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/alphabetical_list/lawspdfs/22.03.pdf))

**Comment:**

There is no legal requirement although an Equal Opportunity Act does exist which is: "An Act to prohibit certain kinds of discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different status, to establish an Equal Opportunity Commission and an Equal Opportunity Tribunal and for matters connected therewith."

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Apparently citizen participation in the budget process is mostly limited to interaction with the parliament:

[https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf) Citizen participation in the budget is facilitated by: –

Public sitting of the SFC to enhance transparency by allowing citizens to witness the line by line examination of the budget. – unrestricted access to budget documents – online and print – public hearings of the Financial Oversight Committees (PAAC, PAC & PA(E)C)

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

127. During the budget formulation stage, which of the following key topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the formulation of the annual budget.*

*Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics – and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget formulation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above – for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.*

*Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.*

*If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.*

*Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.*

Answer:

c. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least one (but less than three) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

There are no formalized Citizen's Engagement in the Budget Formulation Process

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I mostly agree; however I wonder if answer "d" would be more accurate since it seems there are no formal specifications on the topics to be covered in the citizen's engagement. In any case it is worth nothing there is an event called the "Spotlight on the Budget and Economy 2021" where Budget 2021 Core Data was Presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance, Monday September 28th, 2020. However, it seems it is more an informative and dissemination event than a proper stage for engagement with the Citizens . <http://www.news.gov.tt/content/budget-2021-core-data-presented-honourable-colm-imberty-minister-finance#.YSzjjY5KjIV>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

There are informal signals to the public of some budget topics but as the peer indicated this may not meet the requirements of criteria c. Agreed that response can be "d"

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment and the researcher's follow-up reaction are well noted. Given that the scope of topics engaged in during meetings of bodies such as the NTAC (as outlined by the researcher in Q125) are not specified, the current response of "c" is maintained to ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across countries.

128. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.*

*The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:*

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations\\_course/IAP2\\_P2\\_Spectrum\\_FINAL.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf).

*Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. If the executive has designated a central coordinating agency to implement participation mechanisms throughout the national budget process, researchers may consider these mechanisms. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the implementation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenue administration, public service delivery, public investment project implementation, including procurement, and the administration of social transfer schemes.*

*To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings, online, deliberative exchanges, procurement complaint mechanisms, and social monitoring and dialogue.*

*Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input on the implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include public hearings, surveys, focus groups, report cards, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.*

*Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to provide input on budget implementation, but:*

1) *The mechanisms are not structured, happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.*

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", the researcher must have evidence that the government is holding participation mechanisms that have some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that all CSOs and members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples include hotlines, Facebook announcements, one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

In terms of implementation, there is no specific forum for the public to engage in budget discussion. This is also not a requirement in the Constitution and is therefore done at the discretion of the Government particularly during the implementation phase as this phase is not characterized as "significantly" monitored by the public or the media unless there are controversial matters related to it such as relating to withdrawals from the Heritage and Stabilization fund. The are televised discussions of the Public Accounts Committee.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Citizen's participation seems to be mostly limited to: – Public sitting of the SFC to enhance transparency by allowing citizens to witness the line by line examination of the budget. – unrestricted access to budget documents – online and print – public hearings of the Financial Oversight Committees (PAAC, PAC & PA(E)C) [https://parlamerica.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlamerica.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

129. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive take concrete steps to receive input from vulnerable and underrepresented parts of the population on the implementation of the annual budget?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on national government's efforts to obtain input from members of the public who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes during the implementation of the annual budget.*

*To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from at least one vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organization representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives from vulnerable/underrepresented groups.*

*Answer "b" applies if the national executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.*

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

No mechanism inviting vulnerable and underrepresented groups takes place.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

130. During the implementation of the annual budget, which of the following topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Changes in macroeconomic circumstances
2. Delivery of public services
3. Collection of revenue
4. Implementation of social spending
5. Changes in deficit and debt levels
6. Implementation of public investment projects

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the implementation of the annual budget.*

*Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget implementation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be ONLY the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.*

*Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.*

*If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.*

*Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.*

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

There are no formalized public participation mechanisms for implementation. Public engagement is limited to media dissemination and feedback of "relevant" macroeconomic issues based on specific extenuating circumstances that raise concerns within the Government and the Public.

Peer Reviewer  
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Citizen participation in the budget mostly seems to be: – Public sitting of the SFC to enhance transparency by allowing citizens to witness the line by line examination of the budget. – unrestricted access to budget documents – online and print – public hearings of the Financial Oversight Committees (PAAC, PAC & PA(E)C)

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

131. When the executive engages with the public, does it provide comprehensive prior information on the process of the engagement, so that the public can participate in an informed manner?

Comprehensive information must include at least three of the following elements:

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Constraints
4. Intended outcomes
5. Process and timeline

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question relates to the GIFT principle of "Openness," and addresses whether the executive provides relevant information on the process of the engagement before public participation takes place, in order to help citizens engage effectively. The question addresses whether the "rules of the public engagement" are clearly spelled out, in advance and in detail, so that those members of the public who want to engage know how to do so, in terms of when they can do so, what they are expected to provide input on, by when, to whom, etc. This question does not cover the substance of the engagement, which is covered by questions 127 and 130.*

*Non-comprehensive information means that the government provides information that includes at least one but less than three of the elements listed above.*

*Purpose refers to a brief explanation of why the public engagement is being undertaken, including the executive's objectives for its engagement with the public.*

*Scope refers to what is within the subject matter of the engagement as well as what is outside the subject matter of the engagement. For example, the scope may include how a current policy is administered but exclude the specifics of the policies themselves.*

*Constraints refers to whether there are any explicit limitations on the engagement. An example of a constraint could be that any policy changes must not cost (or forgo revenue) more than a specific amount or have no net fiscal cost.*

*Intended outcomes refers to what the executive hopes to achieve as a result of the engagement. Examples of intended outcomes could be revising a policy to better reflect citizen or service-user views or to improve the way in which a particular program is administered.*

*Process refers to the methods by which the public engagement will take place and the discrete steps in the process. For example, the process may simply be a one-off Internet-based consultation, with a summary published of public inputs and the official response. The process may involve simultaneous or overlapping steps, and may be conducted in one round or in two or more rounds of engagement.*

*Timeline refers to the specific dates on which the discrete steps in the process will take place, or during which they will be completed, and clear start and end dates for the overall engagement.*

*Answer "d" applies if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation or formulation stage.*

**Answer:**

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

**Source:**

n/a

**Comment:**

Public Consultations on various issues (budget and non-budget) take place. These consultations are informed by Press Releases to the media. There is however, limited consultations on the budget implementation process. Such public forums usually take place shortly after the Budget Speech and are based on member of parliaments discretion. Various "cottage meetings" or "townhall meetings" also take place but these tend to be politically motivated.

This website is the Government Information Services Limited Website, which can be used as a forum for information dissemination to the public. There are news updates that may therefore include views of special interest groups etc that may be shared on this forum through the Media.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Although I agree mostly with the consultant, it is worth noting there is something called the "Spotlight on the Budget and Economy 2021" held on Monday September 28th, 2020 by the Ministry of Finance: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/2020/09/29/spotlight-on-the-budget-and-economy-2021/> It includes: Presentation by the Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance: BUDGET 2021 CORE DATA with information on inflation, GDP, oil prices and revenues, government expenditures, etc: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Honourable-Colm-Imbert-Minister-of-Finance-Spotlight-on-the-Budget-2021-Presentation.pdf> Presentation by Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance: "Where the money gone?" Mystery or Mischief? <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Vishnu-Dhanpaul-Final-Cash-Flow-January-to-June-Spotlight-on-the-Budget-2021-Final.pdf>

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

132. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used in the formulation of the annual budget?



**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used in the formulation of the annual budget, and how/why.*

*By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.*

*Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:*

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

*Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:*

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used.*

*Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:*

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

*Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.*

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

No feedback is provided. During the budget process from proposal to implementation, members of parliament may host budget forums, cottage and townhall meetings which are not formal but discretionary. As representatives of various constituencies and members of Parliament and by extension the executive, discussions can be used to input into budget priorities but this is highly discretionary and political.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

133. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive provide the public with information on how citizens' inputs have been used to assist in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received during the implementation of the annual budget, which ones are taken into account to improve budget monitoring, and how/why.*

*By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.*

*Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:*

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

*Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:*

- The inputs received (e.g., a written transcript) from the public and
- A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were or were not taken into account by the executive during budget monitoring.

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or
- A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

During the budget process from proposal to implementation, members of parliament may host budget forums, cottage and town hall meetings which are not formal but discretionary. As representatives of various constituencies and members of Parliament, discussions can be used to input into budget priorities but this is highly discretionary and political.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

134. Are participation mechanisms incorporated into the timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal?

**GUIDELINES:**

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Sustainability," "Timeliness" and "Complementarity" and addresses whether the executive is able to link participation mechanisms to the administrative processes that are used to create the annual budget.

Please note that "timetable" refers to a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. This document is sometimes referred to as the budget calendar and is the same document referenced in Question 53.

Answer "a" applies if the national executive establishes a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget. For answer choice "a", the timetable must be available to the public prior to the budget preparation process beginning.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not establish a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

Public participation is not a requirement of the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago, and, as such, mechanisms are not incorporated in the time table for formulating the Executive Budget Proposal. As such, there are no set guidelines in the budget timetable for such engagement.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

135. Do one or more line ministries use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation or implementation of the annual budget?

**GUIDELINES**

*While questions 125 – 134 focus only on participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency currently use to allow the public to participate in the national budget process, this question asks about participation mechanisms used by line ministries to allow the public to participate in national budget processes. Thus, participation mechanisms used by the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by a line ministry or if multiple line ministries use participation mechanisms, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation and/or implementation of the annual budget.*

*This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.*

*The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:*

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations\\_course/IAP2\\_P2\\_Spectrum\\_FINAL.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf)

*To answer "a," a line ministry must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.*

*Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which a line ministry seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.*

*Answer "c" applies if a line ministry has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:*

*1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.*

*and/or*

*2) A line ministry consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the line ministry determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.*

*In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.*

*The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.*

*Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.*

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

While this is not a common practice, it may take place based on requests of certain interest groups. For example, the Ministry of Education may have discussions with Education boards such as PTAs etc upon request of the group. Corporate Communication Divisions for the various line ministries publish reports on their respective websites. For example, the Ministry of Education would publish brief reports under "Messages and Releases" of meetings and outcomes of meetings.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For example, in the case of the Ministry of Finance, information on the budget statement is available at:

[https://www.ttconnect.gov.tt/gortt/portal/ttconnect/lut/p/a1/jdDBDolwDAbgp-FKC8tUvHFARUwMGBV2MWjmwCAjY4KPL3ozKNpbm-9P\\_hQYxMDKtMIFqnNZpsVzZ6NDENpIfYfgOqQH7ci3PKQBmY9JB5I3EM1nHfCotQh2BBH\\_y-0XcX\\_mN7yEPbBBtqQ90K\\_5AgM9IsBEIY-vnyRueSQTAUzxM1dcmTfVnT0tq3pqolFt25pCSIFw8ySvBn6KZLLWEL9LqK7b-05faNGs3AdjOzzp/dl5/d5/L2dBIS9nQSEh/?WCM\\_GLOBAL\\_CONTEXT=/gortt/wcm/connect/gortt+web+content/TTCConnect/Citizen/Topic/GovernmentandPolitics/Documents+and+Policies/Annual+Budget+Statement#3](https://www.ttconnect.gov.tt/gortt/portal/ttconnect/lut/p/a1/jdDBDolwDAbgp-FKC8tUvHFARUwMGBV2MWjmwCAjY4KPL3ozKNpbm-9P_hQYxMDKtMIFqnNZpsVzZ6NDENpIfYfgOqQH7ci3PKQBmY9JB5I3EM1nHfCotQh2BBH_y-0XcX_mN7yEPbBBtqQ90K_5AgM9IsBEIY-vnyRueSQTAUzxM1dcmTfVnT0tq3pqolFt25pCSIFw8ySvBn6KZLLWEL9LqK7b-05faNGs3AdjOzzp/dl5/d5/L2dBIS9nQSEh/?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/gortt/wcm/connect/gortt+web+content/TTCConnect/Citizen/Topic/GovernmentandPolitics/Documents+and+Policies/Annual+Budget+Statement#3) It includes references to get further information: Where can I find more information? For further information, please

contact: Budget Division Levels 9&10 Ministry of Finance Eric Williams Financial Complex Independence Square Port of Spain Tel: (868) 612-9700 ext. 4002/4927 Corporate Communication Unit (Head office) Level 18 Ministry of Finance Eric Williams Financial Complex Independence Square Port of Spain Trinidad, West Indies Tel. (868) 612-9700 ext. 2805-2809 Opening hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday, except public holidays.  
Ministry of Finance

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

136. Does the legislature or the relevant legislative committee(s) hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the formulation of the annual budget (pre-budget and/or approval stages)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislature are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.*

*Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) has put in place and is using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the annual budget. This includes deliberations during the pre-budget phase (i.e., when the executive is still in the process of formulating the draft budget) and the budget discussions after the budget has been tabled to parliament and before it is approved. In the comment box, please specify during which stage of the budget cycle the legislature has put in place a public participation mechanism.*

*Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual Members of Parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.*

*If there is more than one mechanism, please select a mechanism that best shows/reflects the legislature's efforts to incorporate citizens into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenues, policy selection, and macro-fiscal planning (please note that the issue of coverage is covered in a subsequent question).*

*To answer "a," the legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).*

*Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:*

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs; but*
- *There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.*

*Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:*

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs;*
- *No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, but*
- *The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)*
- *The legislature has a provision (via standing orders or in law) through which the public can submit their inputs, and members of the public or CSOs actively use it to submit opinions on the budget.*

*Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget*

Answer:

c. Yes, public hearings on the budget are held. No testimony from the public is provided during the public hearings, and there are no other mechanisms through which public contributions are received, but the legislature invites specific individuals or groups to testify or provide input (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:  
n/a

Comment:  
While various public hearings are held, the nature of these hearings vary and are not always targeted towards budget discussions. Public contributions may be made through the Parliament Facebook page but it is not formalized as a deliberate solicitation of the public's input.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: However take into consideration: Citizen participation in the budget process is facilitated at the TandT parliament by: – Public sitting of the SFC to enhance transparency by allowing citizens to witness the line by line examination of the budget. – unrestricted access to budget documents – online and print – public hearings of the Financial Oversight Committees (PAAC, PAC & PA(E)C)  
[https://parlamerica.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlamerica.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

The additional context provided by the peer reviewer is well-noted.

137. During the legislative deliberations on the annual budget (pre-budget or approval stages), which of the following key topics does the legislature's (or relevant legislative budget committee) engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

*GUIDELINES:*

*This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider the range of mechanisms currently used by the legislature to promote public participation during legislative deliberations on the annual budget.*

*Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics, for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the legislature's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.*

*Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.*

*If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.*

*Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.*

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

<http://www.ttparliament.org/publications.php?mid=28&id=893>

Comment:

The budget debate (during the approval stage) involved discussions in the Lower House (House of Representatives) and the Upper House (Senate) and within the Finance Committee. There are no limits on the topics that are discussed and may therefore include all indicated areas. The link provides a detail of the progress of the Bill until Assent.

There is no mechanism for the public to contribute to the discussion other than an online poll that is available on the cited website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Citizen participation in the budget process seems to be essentially as sort of observers/witnesses instead of active participants: – Public sitting of the SFC to enhance transparency by allowing citizens to witness the line by line examination of the budget. – unrestricted access to budget documents – online and print – public hearings of the Financial Oversight Committees (PAAC, PAC & PA(E)C)  
[https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf)

Government Reviewer  
Opinion:

138. Does the legislature provide feedback to the public on how citizens' inputs have been used during legislative deliberations on the annual budget?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the legislature provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received and how inputs were used during legislative deliberations (please note that these deliberations can refer to the pre-budget and approval phases). By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the legislature.*

*Answer "a" applies when the legislature provides a written document with:*

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

*Answer "b" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:*

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used in legislative deliberations on the annual budget (please note that these deliberations refer to the pre-budget and approval phases).*

*Answer "c" applies when the legislature makes available a video recording of the relevant legislative session or provides a written document that includes:*

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

*Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.*

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

There are no feedback mechanisms describing how and whether public inputs were considered.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: None I am aware of.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

139. Does the legislature hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislative are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.*

A key constitutional role of the legislature in almost all countries is to oversee the government's management of public resources. While the Supreme Audit Institution is responsible for checking the government's accounts and publishing the outcome of their audits, for accountability purposes it is essential that the legislature reviews and scrutinizes those reports, and checks on whether the executive is taking the appropriate corrective actions based on the Supreme Audit Institution's recommendations.

Holding public hearings to review audit findings allows the public to learn more about how the government has managed its resources for the budget years that have ended, and demand accountability in case of mismanagement and irregularities. Reviewing and discussing those reports in public is therefore a key responsibility of a legislature.

Please note that by "Audit Report" we refer to the same audit report assessed in the transparency section of this Survey, i.e., one of the eight key budget documents that all governments (in this case, the Supreme Audit Institution) must produce, according to best practice.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) have put in place and using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the Audit Report.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual members of parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

To answer "a," the national legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- No testimony is allowed from the public; BUT
- There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- No testimony is allowed from the public;
- No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, BUT
- The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the Audit Report.

Answer:

c. Yes, public hearings on the Audit Report are held. No testimony from the public is provided during the hearings and there are no other mechanisms through which public contributions are received, but the legislature invites specific individuals or groups to testify or provide input (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzNhZFoqpn4>

Comment:

Through the Public Accounts Committee, public hearings are held to discuss various issues relating to the AG report. At times these hearings focus on previously published reports and not for the most recent budget year. In addition, these hearings while aired to the public, do not facilitate public input but rather those of invited participants.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: According to [https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf) Citizens can attend public hearings (including live broadcast) hosted by several Financial Oversight Committees (Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee and Public Accounts Committee) including Post-Implementation Oversight.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

140. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program (for example, by bringing ideas on agencies, programs, or projects that could be audited)?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question assesses whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has established mechanisms through which the public can provide suggestions on issues/topics to be included in its audit program. When deciding its audit agenda, the SAI may undertake audits for a sample of agencies, projects, and programs in the country; and such a selection could be based on complaints and suggestions made by members of the public. To receive such suggestions, the SAI may create formal mechanisms, like setting up a website, hotline, or office (or assigning staff to liaise with the public).*

*Please note that formal mechanisms that do not explicitly seek the public's input in the audit program (such as general comment submission boxes on the SAI's website) should not be considered for this question.*

**Answer:**

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

**Source:**

Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
<http://laws.gov.tt/pdf/Constitution.pdf>

**Comment:**

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Auditor General reports to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Minister of Finance. The Speaker is required to lay the Report in the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate is required to lay the Report in the Senate, thus making the documents public. The Public Accounts Committee addresses issues related to the reports of the Auditor General.

**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Essentially the public review of audit reports is carried by the Parliament oversight committees (Public Accounts Committee and Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee) conducting public hearings (including live broadcast),  
[https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago\\_Nicole\\_Olivierre\\_ENG.pdf](https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Trinidad&Tobago_Nicole_Olivierre_ENG.pdf)

**Government Reviewer**

Opinion:

141. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used to determine its audit program?

**GUIDELINES:**

*This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the Supreme Audit Institution provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used to determine the Supreme Audit Institution's audit program. By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the Supreme Audit Institution.*

*Answer "a" applies when the Supreme Audit Institution provides a written document with:*

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

*Answer "b" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:*

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used to determine the SAI's annual audit program.*

*Answer "c" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:*

- *The received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

*Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggests issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program.*

**Answer:**

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.



Source:

n/a

Comment:

There is no feedback mechanism.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: None I am aware about. It is the Parliament the one engaging with the citizens with public hearings and live broadcasts.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

142. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations (as respondents, witnesses, etc.)?

*GUIDELINES:*

*This question mirrors question 140, but instead of covering public assistance in formulating the SAI's audit program, it focuses on whether the Supreme Audit Institution has established mechanisms through which the public can participate in audit investigations. In addition to seeking public input to determine its audit agenda, the SAI may wish to provide formal opportunities for the public and civil society organizations to participate in the actual audit investigations, as witnesses or respondents.*

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

There is no such mechanism.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: None I am aware of.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: