

Open Budget Survey 2023

Questionnaire

United Kingdom

May 2024

Country Questionnaire: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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 2022-23

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Comment:

An important note on The Spending Review: This provides a multi-year view of government's spending plans across departmental budgets. The 2021 spending review was incorporated into the October 2021 budget and set out departmental resource and capital budgets from 2022-23 to 2024-25 and covered the devolved administrations' block grants for the same period of time.

The Autumn Statement is an update on government's plans for the economy. In the Autumn of November 2022 the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published its forecast on the back of the Autumn Statement, exceptionally, not having had sufficient time to prepare a more extensive report. The 23 September 2022 fiscal event was presented by then Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng without OBR forecasts, which generally offer a reliable outlook for the coming year.

Following an Autumn Budget in October 2021 (which includes the 2021 Spending Review, see note above) and a Spring Statement in 2022, the spending decisions laid out on 23 September 2022 announced significant tax and spending decisions. Developments that followed necessitated the

delivery of a new Autumn Statement on 17 November 2022 by the current Chancellor Jeremy Hunt, reversing many of the tax changes and laying out revised tax and spending decisions. The document lays out government plans to restore economic stability, addresses the cost of living crisis, and set out plans for public service delivery and provision. Many of the decisions in the November 2022 Autumn Statement were included in the Autumn Finance Bill, published 22 November 2022. Importantly the Autumn Statement referred to the maintenance of committed budgets for the remaining two years of the Spending Review.

Autumn Statement Speech

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-autumn-statement-2022-speech>

Autumn Finance Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-finance-bill-2022-published>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This seems like a fair assessment of a very unusual year in UK budget-making.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. At least four months in advance of the budget year, and at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced in the legislature

Comments: The EFO is part of the PBS package in that it provides a forecast looking ahead at the economy, setting out macroeconomic background assumptions for later fiscal events. This aligns with the findings from the most recent survey. This was published in November 2022, at least four months ahead of the next fiscal event.

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted; in line with the researcher's explanation and peer reviewer's feedback, the existing response of "d" is maintained.

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: November 17 2022

IBP Comment

Please see the "IBP Staff" comment at PBS-2. The existing blank response is maintained.

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

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: It was published on 17 November 2022 by the Office for Budget Responsibility: <https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

IBP Comment

Please see the "IBP Staff" comment at PBS-2. The existing response of "n/a" is maintained.

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: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: <https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comments: Added link above.

IBP Comment

Please see the "IBP Staff" comment at PBS-2. The existing blank response is maintained.

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:

n/a

Comment:

PBS not publicly available

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: All of the OBR's data can be found in xlsx format, which is a machine readable format.

IBP Comment

Please see the "IBP Staff" comment at PBS-2. The existing response of "d" is maintained.

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

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Comments: Changed given disagreed with fact that there is not a PBS.

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted. Per the "IBP STAFF" comment at PBS-2, the existing response of "d" is maintained.

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:

The pace of announcements through the Autumn of 2022, with a 'mini-Budget' on 23 September, policy reversals announced over subsequent weeks, and an Autumn Statement on 17 November, points to there being no internal PBS produced between those announcements.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: "The pace of announcements through the Autumn of 2022, with a 'mini-Budget' on 23 September, policy reversals announced over subsequent weeks, and an Autumn Statement on 17 November, points to there being no internal PBS produced between those announcements."

Comments: As (d) was selected for PBS-6a, the survey should specify here how that was determined, hence the proposed answer.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted, and the response is revised from "n/a" to "The pace of announcements through the Autumn of 2022, with a 'mini-Budget' on 23 September, policy reversals announced over subsequent weeks, and an Autumn Statement on 17 November, points to there being no internal PBS produced between those announcements." accordingly.

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 2023 State Budget" or "Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Plan and Budget for 2022/23."

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

Answer:

n/a n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: Economic and fiscal outlook – November 2022

IBP Comment

Please see the "IBP Staff" comment at PBS-2. The existing response of "n/a" is maintained.

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:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022-23 FY 2022-23

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible_1_.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/autumn-statement-2022>

Autumn Finance Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-finance-bill-2022-published>

See also

Briefing note 17 October 2022 fiscal statement

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9643/>

Background to Autumn Statement 2022
Research Briefing
Published Friday, 11 November, 2022
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9649/>

Charter for Budget Responsibility: Autumn 2022 update
The Charter for Budget Responsibility sets out the government's approach to fiscal policy and management of the public finances.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charter-for-budget-responsibility-autumn-2022-update>

Comment:

As before: Please consider answer so we may come to an agreement as soon as possible.

Following an Autumn Budget in October 2021 (which includes the 2021 Spending Review, see note in PBS section) and a Spring Statement in 2022, the spending decisions laid out on 23 September 2022 also known as the Growth Plan, announced significant tax and spending decisions. In a relatively politically uneventful year, the Growth Plan might be used as the EBP.

However given the economic and political consequences of the Growth Plan that saw a new Prime Minister take office, Rishi Sunak, former Chancellor, a new financial event was called for. New Chancellor Jeremy Hunt issued on 17 October 2022 a snap statement on a medium term fiscal plan, which might mean it is possible that the Autumn Statement medium-term fiscal plan may change some of the existing targets for the public finances, which were set in January 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-brings-forward-further-medium-term-fiscal-plan-measures>

A new Autumn Statement on 17 November 2022 was presented by the current Chancellor Jeremy Hunt, reversing many of the tax changes of the Growth Plan and laying out revised tax and spending decisions. The document lays out government plans to restore economic stability, addresses the cost of living crisis, and set out plans for public service delivery and provision. Many of the decisions in the November 2022 Autumn Statement were included in the Autumn Finance Bill, published 22 November 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Again, this seems like a fair assessment of a very unusual budget year.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

17/11/2022 17/11/2022

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022 documents, including
Distributional analysis
Policy costings
Table 5.1 Autumn Statement 2022 Policy Decisions
Table 5.2 Growth Plan 2022 Reversals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Autumn Finance Bill 22 November 2022
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-finance-bill-2022-published>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

Autumn Statement 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/autumn-statement-2022>

Autumn Finance Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-finance-bill-2022-published>

NB: The main Spring Finance Bill 2023 will follow the spring Budget in the usual way, for remaining tax measures needed ahead of April 2023.

Comment:

NB: Refer to the Main Estimates 2022-2023 as a point of reference to the Autumn Statement and the Autumn Finance Bill

12 May 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The Autumn Statement and Finance Bill were published on 17 and 22 November 2022, respectively, while the Bill was approved by the House of Commons of 30 November 2022 (<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3376/stages>). The response is revised from "a" to "c."

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. 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:

17/11/2022 17/11/2022

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/autumn-statement-2022>

Autumn Finance Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-finance-bill-2022-published>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Published on Government's portal. Presented to Parliament on 17 November 2022, all documents made available on Government website. Published on Government portal. Chancellor presented the Autumn Statement to Parliament on 17 November 2022 and the Autumn Finance Bill on 22 November 2022

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/autumn-statement-2022>

Autumn Finance Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-finance-bill-2022-published>

NB: The main Spring Finance Bill 2023 will follow the spring Budget in the usual way, for remaining tax measures needed ahead of April 2023.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Autumn Finance Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-finance-bill-2022-published>

NB: The main Spring Finance Bill 2023 will follow the spring Budget in the usual way, for remaining tax measures needed ahead of April 2023.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/autumn-statement-2022>

Autumn Finance Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-finance-bill-2022-published>

NB: The main Spring Finance Bill 2023 will follow the spring Budget in the usual way, for remaining tax measures needed ahead of April 2023.

NB: Refer to the Main Estimates 2022-2023 as a point of reference to the Autumn Statement and the Autumn Finance Bill

12 May 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Comment:

Answer B

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This answer is correct in a narrow sense, but it misses the fact that in the UK it is the Office for Budget Responsibility that is the main source of Budget-related data in machine-readable .xlsx format (<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: The data/documents that are listed on gov.uk sites as PDFs or HTMLs all have the option of requesting versions of them in an accessible format, with the option of different formats depending on the assistive technology used, and details on how to do so, which means that all the data is available in a machine readable format.

IBP Comment

The external reviewers' comments are well noted. As the complete array of machine readable files must be requested by the user, the existing response of "b" is maintained in order to ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across countries.

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:

Answer e

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

n/a n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022-23, 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:

Autumn Statement 2022

Source:

Autumn Statement CP 751

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Autumn Statement 2022

Comments: The document title doesn't include its Command Paper number, but it does include the year. See front page of pdf here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The comment from the peer reviewer is well noted; the response is revised from "Autumn Statement CP 751" to "Autumn Statement 2022."

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:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022-23

Source:
FY 2022-2023

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
14/7/2022 14/12/2022

Source:
Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2022
14 July 2022
CHAPTER 39, authorises use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2023.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted> [14th July 2022]

Comment:
Researcher feels the EB should be Mains Estimate (July 2022) but please review and consider. Subsequent to the Autumn Statement November 2022, The Finance Bill was agreed unamended by 30 November 2022, but was made into law in January 2023, after the cut-off date.

NB: The Finance Bill enacts the proposals for taxation made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget statement and brings them into law.

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2022-23
Sent 22 November 2022; second reading on 28 November; remaining stages undertaken 30 November. No amendments or new clauses introduced and the Bill was agreed on 30 November.
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3376>

The Finance Act 2023 received Royal Assent on 10 January 2023 (Votes and Proceedings No.97 (PDF), 10 January 2023).

<https://commonsbusiness.parliament.uk/Document/62103/Pdf?subType=Standard>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Given the unusual year, both politically and in budget-making, there was no 'Budget' in 2022 (despite there being a Spring Statement in March, a 'mini-Budget'/Growth Plan in September, Autumn Statement in November, and several other major fiscal announcements. The researchers choice therefore seems reasonable given the circumstances.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This follows the precedent of the most recent survey, although the Finance Act was passed in that year, so also included then.

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:

Answer a

Refer to

Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2022

14 July 2022

CHAPTER 39, authorises use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2023.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted> [14th July 2022]

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

14/7/2022

Source:

Supply and Appropriations Act(Mains Estimate) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Government portal

Source:

as before, assessment made to use Main Estimates as it differs from the EBP
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted>

Comment:

The internet archive also confirms that the Main Estimates were posted online as of 14 July 2022:
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220714161608/https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted>

Source:

Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2022
14 July 2022
CHAPTER 39, authorises use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2023.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted> [14th July 2022]

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

answer c

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084761/E02762396_HC_396_HMT_Main_Supply_Estimates_22-23_WEB.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Arguably, this answer could be 'b' rather than 'c' since the Treasury published a high-level summary of departmental expenditure budgets for Main Estimates in .xlsx format on this page: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23> But the Excel file contains three small summary tables to cover a 692-page pdf document, so answer 'c' also seems reasonable.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23#full-publication-update-history> In this link, there is the option of requesting data in a machine accessible format.

IBP Comment

In light of the information provided by the peer reviewer, the response is revised from "c" to "b."

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:

answer e

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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 2023."

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

Answer:

Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2022 UK Public General Acts c.39

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022-23

Source:

Comment:

There is no CB as such. There is a non-technical platform designed to enhance public participation and knowledge on public finances and the budget processes through local authorities.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution/engaging-citizens-devolution/approaches-civic-and-democratic-engagement-0>

Government also makes information on Parliamentary, legislative and budget processes widely available, including Hansard and data sets.

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/check-and-approve-government-spending-and-taxation/the-budget-and-parliament/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The OBR also produces "A Brief Guide to the Public Finances" after each Budget or other fiscal statement that it produces a forecast for: <https://obr.uk/forecasts-in-depth/brief-guides-and-explainers/public-finances/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Not produced.

There is no CB as such. There is a non-technical platform published by the Local Government Association designed to enhance public participation and knowledge on public finances and the budget processes through local authorities.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution/engaging-citizens-devolution/approaches-civic-and-democratic-engagement-0>

Government also makes information on Parliamentary, legislative and budget processes widely available, including Hansard and data sets.

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/check-and-approve-government-spending-and-taxation/the-budget-and-parliament/>

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is no single document produced by the UK Government that meets the IBP definition of a Citizens Budget.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. 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:

Source:

n/a

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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: Agree

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:

Source:

n/a

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022 People's Guide" or "2023 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:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022-23

Source:

Public sector finances, UK: November 2022 (final release date before end December 2022)

How the relationship between UK public sector monthly income and expenditure leads to changes in deficit and debt. (release date 21 December 2022)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. At least every month, and within one month of the period covered

Source:

Answer a

Office for National Statistics publishes in-year data on spending and receipts on a monthly basis

Monthly statistics on the public sector finances: a methodological guide

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/methodologies/monthlystatisticsonthepublicsectorfinancesamethodologicalguide>

Also confirmed by Office for Budget Responsibility which the agency uses for in year fiscal monitoring and forecasting: The ONS publishes detailed monthly data only for central government (CG)

https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/In-year_fiscal_forecasting_and_monitoring_2.pdf

Comment:

In addition to the monthly statistics provided by the Office for National Statistics

OSCAR

The Online System for Central Accounting and Reporting II (OSCAR II) is a cross-government project to replace the first OSCAR and Combined Online Information System (COINS) public spending databases. It provides us with key management information and data for public reporting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmt-oscar-publishing-from-the-database>

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database: 21 December 2022

The second quarterly OSCAR transparency release for 2022 to 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-december-2022>

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database: 21 September 2022

The first quarterly OSCAR transparency release for 2022 to 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-september-2022>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The OBR also publishes a monthly briefing on the ONS public sector finances statistics that allows the public to understand how the latest data are evolving relative to the most recent forecast: <https://obr.uk/monthly-public-finances-briefing/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022 should be entered as 05 September 2022. If the document is not published or not produced, please mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

May 2022: 23/6/22;

Jun 2022: 21/7/22;

Jul 2022: 19/8/22;

Aug 2022: 21/9/22;

Sep 2022: 21/10/22;

Oct 2022: 22/11/22;

Nov 2022: 21/12/22

Source:

In addition to the monthly statistics provided by the Office for National Statistics

OSCAR

The Online System for Central Accounting and Reporting II (OSCAR II) is a cross-government project to replace the first OSCAR and Combined Online Information System (COINS) public spending databases. It provides us with key management information and data for public reporting.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmt-oscar-publishing-from-the-database>

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database: 21 December 2022

The second quarterly OSCAR transparency release for 2022 to 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-december-2022>

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database: 21 September 2022

The first quarterly OSCAR transparency release for 2022 to 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-september-2022>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Given the error message that has been generated for this answer, I suspect the dates have been provided in the wrong format. But it gives the correct information.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Publications are available on the following Gov.uk sites confirming publication dates
Office for National Statistics
HM Treasury
Debt Management Office
Oscar Database

Source:**Comment:****Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Corroborated via this website: <https://obr.uk/monthly-public-finances-briefing/monthly-public-finances-releases-in-2022-23/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022>

Source:

The Office for National Statistics publishes in-year data on spending and receipts on a monthly basis.

Comment:

October 2022:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/october2022>

September 2022:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/september2022>

August 2022: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/august2022>

July 2022: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/july2022>

June 2022: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/june2022>

May 2022: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/may2022>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

OSCAR in-year database is available for download in a machine-readable format

Public Sector Finance Bulletins also has downloadable versions of all tables and datasets for greater detail to download via the button "View all data used in this statistical bulletin"

e.g. : <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/may2023>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

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 2022."

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:

Office for National Statistics:
Public sector finances, UK

How the relationship between UK public sector monthly income and expenditure leads to changes in deficit and debt.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance>

Source:

Also

HM Treasury 16 November 2022

Public Spending Statistics release: November 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-statistics-release#full-publication-update-history>

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database: 21 December 2022

The second quarterly OSCAR transparency release for 2022 to 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-december-2022>

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database: 21 September 2022

The first quarterly OSCAR transparency release for 2022 to 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-september-2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 Government does not publish an accessible citizens' version of the monthly statistical release, but the OBR publishes a 4-page summary and commentary that might be considered somewhat equivalent to such a report: <https://obr.uk/monthly-public-finances-briefing/monthly-public-finances-releases-in-2022-23/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022-23

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Background to Autumn Statement 2022

Research Briefing

Published Friday, 11 November, 2022

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9649/>

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on the same day as the Autumn Statement 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

The 17 October 2022 fiscal statement: Summary and background

Chancellor's snap statement following new premiership of Rishi Sunak, setting out plans to address government borrowing

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9643/>

Comment:

NB

As mentioned before, the new Chancellor Jeremy Hunt delivered a statement 17 October 2022 government's plan to control borrowing, following the fiscal event of 23 September presented by then Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng (without OBR forecasts). This was known as the medium-term fiscal plan which reversed many of the proposals in the 23 September Growth Plan (popularly considered a mini-budget). The Autumn Statement 2022 contains elements of the medium-term fiscal plan, as well as the OBR November 2022 forecasts. Existing January 2022 targets for public finances may change. As such the 2022 Autumn Statement is a review of targets set for public finances earlier in the year, considering the consequences of the Growth Plan on the economy.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: As before, this seems a fair assessment of a very unusual budget year.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Nine weeks or less, but more than six weeks, after the midpoint

Source:

MYR from date of publication of Supply and Appropriations July 2022.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Nine weeks or less, but more than six weeks, after the midpoint

Comments: The mid-point of the fiscal year is 30 September. On that basis, the Autumn Statement on 17 November came 6 weeks and 6 days after the mid-point.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted; the response is revised from "c" to "b."

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

17/11/2022

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022: documents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Government portal

Source:

17 November 2022

Autumn Statement 2022: documents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022 documents, including
Distributional analysis
Policy costings
Table 5.1 Autumn Statement 2022 Policy Decisions
Table 5.2 Growth Plan 2022 Reversals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on same day 17 November 2022.
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: As with similar questions, all this data can be requested in machine-readable format.

IBP Comment

To ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across evaluated countries, the existing response of "b" is maintained.

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:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2021/22" or "Mid-Year Report on the 2022 National Budget."

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

Answer:

Autumn Statement 2022

Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2021-22

Source:

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2022

20 July 2022

HM Treasury statistical data setting out the year's information on government spending

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The year indicated is 2021-22, yet the sources (and later information) provided are for the following year (22-23), so would think either

the answer should change, or the links should change to the ones published in 2021. Unless the researcher deems it that the reports cover the 2021-22 year, and so that's why it's these publications/links?

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted. The researcher is indicating that the reports cover the 2021-22 fiscal year, as the PESA 2022 contains 2021-2022 outturn reporting.

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:

a. Six months or less after the end of the budget year

Source:

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2022

20 July 2022

HM Treasury statistical data setting out the year's information on government spending

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

20/7/2022

Source:

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2022

20 July 2022

HM Treasury statistical data setting out the year's information on government spending

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Government portal

Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Comment:

In addition, a javascript check of the last modified date of the PDF page

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091951/E02754802_PESA_2022_elay.pdf) confirms the publication date.

The Internet Archive also confirms that all associated Excel files were also posted online as of 20 July 2022:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220720140944/https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Comment:

Certain tables from the PESA are also available in Excel format.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: As far as I can tell, only the single table in Annex F is not available in Excel on the PESA website. As that is "GDP deflators and money GDP", answer 'a' might be more appropriate than 'b'.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022" or "Annual Report 2021 Published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2022

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2022

Comments: See:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091951/E02754802_PESA_2022_elay.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

In light of the peer reviewer's comment, the response is revised from "HMT Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA)" to "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2022."

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: Agree

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 2020-21

Source:

Comment:

The Whole of Government Accounts, 2019-20 was the most recent edition of the WGA available before the OBS 2023 research cutoff date of 31 December 2022. Per the OBS guidelines, an Audit Report should be published within 18 months of the fiscal year to which it refers in order to be considered publicly available. Therefore, the Whole of Government Accounts 2020-21 is the earliest that can be evaluated.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: WGA for 2020-21 were published on 20/7/23, which was more than two years after the end of fiscal year 2020-21:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whole-of-government-accounts-2020-21>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

d. Does not release to the public, or is released more than 18 months after the end of the budget year

Source:

The Whole of Government Accounts 2020-21 was published more than 18 months beyond the end of the fiscal year, and after the OBS 2023 research cutoff date:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/whole-of-government-accounts-2020-21/>

Response "d" applies.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/whole-of-government-accounts-2020-21/>

Comment:

The Whole of Government Accounts 2020-21 was not yet published as of the OBS 2023 research cutoff date of 31 December 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

n/a

Source:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/whole-of-government-accounts-2020-21/>

Comment:

The Whole of Government Accounts 2020-21 was not yet published as of the OBS 2023 research cutoff date of 31 December 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Source:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/whole-of-government-accounts-2020-21/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

d. Not applicable

Source:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/whole-of-government-accounts-2020-21/>

Comment:

The Whole of Government Accounts 2020-21 was not yet published as of the OBS 2023 research cutoff date of 31 December 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Produced for internal purposes/use only

Source:

National Audit Office

<https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/whole-of-government-accounts-2020-21/>

Comment:

answer c

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Produced but made available online to the public too late (published after the acceptable time frame)

Comments: As per the URLs in the researcher's answer to this and previous questions, the WGA and the NAO audit of them are published but with a longer lag than is acceptable under the OBS methodology.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Although should note it is published and available to the public online, albeit after the timeframe and outside the window for the cut-off date.

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted. During the OBS 2023 research period ending 31 December 2022, the NAO was actively drafting the audit of the 2020-21 WGA, but had not yet published it. The existing response of "c" is maintained.

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:

The Whole of Government Accounts 2020-21 was eventually published in July 2023, but was not yet available as of the OBS 2023 research cutoff date of 31 December 2022.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: n/a

Comments: Since the answer to AR-6a should be 'a' rather than 'c'.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: Although note as previous that whilst only internally available at the point of the review's cut-off date, it was publicly available once finalised.

IBP Comment

The external reviewers' comments are well noted. During the OBS 2023 research period ending 31 December 2022, the NAO was actively drafting the audit of the 2020-21 WGA, but had not yet published it. The researcher's existing response is maintained.

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:

Whole of Government Accounts, 2020-21

Source:

National Audit Office

<https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/whole-of-government-accounts-2020-21/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

Comment:

answer b

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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 (<https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/planejamento-e-orcamento/orcamento>). 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:

Sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/>

<https://obr.uk/>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/>
<https://www.nao.org.uk/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2020/>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hm-revenue-customs-receipts>

HM Treasury statistical data setting out the year's information on government spending

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Transparency data

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-december-2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Only changes required are to correct typos in the first two links, which should end '2022' rather than '2020'. Everything else is correct.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2020/>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hm-revenue-customs-receipts>

HM Treasury statistical data setting out the year's information on government spending

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Transparency data

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-december-2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Note that the first two links should end '2022' rather than '2020'. Everything else is correct.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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.

GQ-1d asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis are present. For example, in South Africa the Vulekamali portal (<https://vulekamali.gov.za>) is a project by the National Treasury which contains visualizations of the Consolidated Budget Summary, by departments budget, by division of revenue and by infrastructure budget distribution. (See for example <https://vulekamali.gov.za/2022-23/national/departments/basic-education/>). Other countries that have developed portals that include fiscal visualization and graphics include: Brazil's Transparency Portal (<https://portaldatransparencia.gov.br/>), which presents line graphs, bar graphs, pie charts, and visual maps of electronic invoices, public expenditure, public revenue, annual budget, transferred resources, resources transferred by location of beneficiary, among other information. (<https://portaldatransparencia.gov.br/orcamento> and <https://portaldatransparencia.gov.br/transferencias>). Additionally, United States Department of the Treasury, Fiscal Data portal (<https://fiscaldata.treasury.gov/>) is a one-stop shop for federal financial data that uses charts, exhibits, and figures.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2020/>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hm-revenue-customs-receipts>

HM Treasury statistical data setting out the year's information on government spending

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Transparency data

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-december-2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: As per previous question, first two links need to end '2022' rather than '2020'.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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>), and the Macedonian researcher may include a link to its State Audit Law (<https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/Audit-law.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:

Charter for Budget Responsibility: Autumn 2022 update

The Charter for Budget Responsibility sets out the government's approach to fiscal policy and management of the public finances.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charter-for-budget-responsibility-autumn-2022-update>

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

UK Statutory Instruments

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/234/contents/made>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This should also cite: Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/4/contents/enacted>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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. For more information on access to information legislation (constitutional provisions, laws, and regulations), including examples of model laws, see: <https://www.rti-rating.org/country-data/> and <https://www.constituteproject.org/>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

Freedom of Information Act 2000
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer a

Refer to Tables 2.1 and 2.2 from page 20 of the following

Autumn Statement 2022 17 November 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible_1_.pdf

And accompanying documents including Policy Costings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. No, expenditures are not presented by functional classification.

Source:

Answer a

Autumn Statement November 2022 documents including Policy Costings and Growth Plan Reversals can be found here, including links to data on Excel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

Policy Decisions Table 5.1, pg 58

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. No, expenditures are not presented by functional classification.

Comments: The Autumn Statement does not contain a breakdown of expenditure by COFOG functional classification. The table referred to provides a thematic breakdown of the fiscal impact of new policy decisions rather than a full functional breakdown of planned expenditure.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted; the Table 5.1 presentation indeed does not comprise a functional expenditure classification as explained in the guidelines for Q2. The response is revised from "a" to "b" in order to ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across countries.

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 or at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qfs/manual/pdf/ch6ann.pdf>.

Answer:

b. No, the functional classification is not compatible with international standards, or expenditures are not presented by functional classification.

Source:

Answer a

Autumn Statement November 2022 documents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: n/a because the Autumn Statement documentation does not contain a functional breakdown of expenditure. The UK Government does publish a functional breakdown in outturn once a year in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses document, but this is typically published in July and therefore is not supporting budget documentation.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted. Per the "IBP Staff" comment on Question 2, the response for Q3 is revised from "a" to "b," as there is no qualifying functional expenditure presentation.

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:

Answer a

Autumn Statement November 2022

Refer to Section 2.28 on Total Managed Expenditure from page 24, alongside Table 5.1 of Policy Decisions document found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table CD; and Supplementary fiscal tables: expenditure

24 November 2022

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer a

Autumn Statement November 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables; supplementary fiscal tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Yes, programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented.

Source:

Answer a
Autumn Statement November 2022
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Table 5.1

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables; supplementary fiscal tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented.

Comments: The Government does not publish programme-level expenditure data in or alongside the Autumn Statement; it only publishes a breakdown by department for the 'DEL' element of expenditure (roughly half of total expenditure, see Tables 2.1 and 2.2). The OBR's Economic & Fiscal Outlook document and supplementary Excel tables provide programme-level expenditure data for the welfare/social security budget (e.g. pensions, disability benefits, and so on). This amounts to around a third of total expenditure.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted- the response is revised from "a" to "c."

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:

c. Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Answer c

By economic classification Office for Budget Responsibility Charts and Tables, Table
Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Supplementary fiscal tables: expenditure
24 November 2022

On Administrative and Functional budget documentation
Policy costings which sets out the assumptions and methodologies used in Government's Policy Decisions since Spring Statement 2022, generally
and for some departments, and departmental day-to-day spending
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Departmental Budget Statements can be found for FY2021-22, but only for the year in question
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplementary-estimates-2021-22>
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084761/E02762396_HC_396_HMT_Main_Supply_Estimates_22-23_WEB.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In Table 2.1 and 2.2, multi-year projections of departmental expenditure by administrative classification are provided. This covers around half of all expenditure and covers the period up to 2024-25 (as determined by the most recent Spending Review from 2021). So one could argue that two classifications are covered, but since there is no administrative breakdown of 'annually managed expenditure', the researcher's answer seems reasonable.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Economic classification

Source:

Economic Classification
Office for Budget Responsibility Charts and Tables, Table
Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Supplementary fiscal tables: expenditure
24 November 2022

NB Government sets out detailed department-by-department plans for RDEL and CDEL in its 2022 Autumn Statement. This set RDEL and CDEL plans for all departments for 2022-23 to 2024-25 from 1 April 2023

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The researcher's 'NB' above echoes the comment on the previous answer.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Yes, multi-year estimates for programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented.

Source:

Answer c

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Supplementary fiscal tables: expenditure, Welfare Table 3.27 only
24 November 2022

NB Government sets out detailed department-by-department plans for RDEL and CDEL in its 2022 Autumn Statement. This set RDEL and CDEL plans for all departments for 2022-23 to 2024-25 from 1 April 2023

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Supplementary fiscal tables: receipts and other

24 November 2022

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer A

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Supplementary fiscal tables: receipts and other
24 November 2022
Tables 3.1-3.4

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See also Table 2.3 in the 'Receipts and other' .xlsx file

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates of revenue are presented by category.

Source:

Answer A

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Supplementary fiscal tables: receipts and other
24 November 2022
To FY2027-2028

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented.

Source:

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Supplementary fiscal tables: receipts and other
24 November 2022
To FY2027-2028

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 entire 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 entire 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 if no information on borrowing and debt is presented for the entire budget year.

Answer:

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

Source:

Answer A

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/CCS0822661240-002_SECURE_OBR_EFO_November_2022_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

Table A.5 Annex A Fiscal Aggregates

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

All the above

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table A.5 Annex A Fiscal Aggregates from page 59

Public sector finances, UK: November 2022 (final release date before end December 2022)

How the relationship between UK public sector monthly income and expenditure leads to changes in deficit and debt. (release date 21 December 2022)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022>

Public sector finances revisions analysis on main fiscal aggregates: Appendix C

Dataset | Released 21 December 2022

Revisions analysis for central government receipts, expenditure, net borrowing and net cash requirement statistics for the UK over the last five years

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer A

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Annex A, A.5 Fiscal Aggregates; A.8 Total Managed Expenditure; A9 changes since March 2022

(this information appears in various forms in the Autumn Statement November 2022)

Debt Management Office

2021-2022

Annual Report and Accounts

As at March 2022

From Page 77

11 July 2022

<https://www.dmo.gov.uk/media/qnfbmaa3/dmodmarep2022a.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See in particular Tables 3.14 and 3.15 in the OBR's 'Supplementary fiscal tables: Receipts and other' .xlsx file.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 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:

Answer all the above
Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table 3: Debt interest spending: changes since March 2022 page
Maturity profile page 41

Office for National Statistics
UK government debt and deficit: September 2022
Quarterly estimates of UK government debt and deficit.
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicspending/bulletins/ukgovernmentdebtanddeficitforeurostatmaast/september2022>

These are consistent with Public sector finances, UK: November 2022 statistical bulletin, published on 21 December 2022.
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022>
Figure 3 Interest payable on central government debt

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Source:

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/CCS0822661240-002_SECURE_OBR_EFO_November_2022_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

beginning at page 13

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Nominal GDP level

Inflation rate

Real GDP growth

Interest rates

Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:

Answer all the above

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/CCS0822661240-002_SECURE_OBR_EFO_November_2022_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

beginning at page 13

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See also the OBR's 'Supplementary economy tables' .xlsx file, which contains further breakdowns of GDP and various other economic determinants of the fiscal forecast.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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.

For an example of how a sensitivity analysis may be presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal, see the following:

- *The United States in its 2021 Budget Analytical Perspectives includes a section titled Sensitivity of the Budget to Economic Assumptions along with a table that shows the impact of each economic scenario on revenues, spending, and the deficit. (see pages 16 – 17, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BUDGET-2021-PER/pdf/BUDGET-2021-PER.pdf>).*
- *The Philippines in its 2021 Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF) presents the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on expenditures, revenue, and debt (see page 131, Table A.6 titled "Budget Sensitivity to Macroeconomic Parameters, 2021," (<https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/BESF/BESF2021/A6.pdf>); pages 12-13, Technical Notes on the 2021 Proposed National Budget (<https://www.dbm.gov.ph/images/pdf/Technical-Notes-on-the-2021-Proposed-National-Budget.pdf>)).*

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:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented to show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on the budget.

Source:

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Some examples include

Chart E

Box 4 Pg 50

Discussion Table 3 Debt Interest Spending

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In a normal OBR Economic & Fiscal Outlook, they present fan charts, sensitivity analyses, alternative scenarios, and various quantified risks. The November 2022 EFO was truncated due to the unusual autumn fiscal calendar, but still contained several of these analyses.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 of the impact of the new policies, 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:

a. Yes, estimates that show how all new policy proposals affect expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Autumn Statement 2022 documents, including

Distributional analysis

Policy costings

Table 5.1 Autumn Statement 2022 Policy Decisions

Table 5.2 Growth Plan 2022 Reversals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

For example

Table 4: Spending (excluding environmental levies): changes since March,

Table 5: Public sector net borrowing: changes since March,

Table 6: Public sector net debt (excluding Bank of England): changes since March from page 42 including analysis

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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 of the impact of the new policies, 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:

a. Yes, estimates that show how all new policy proposals affect revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Answer a
Autumn Statement 2022 documents, including
Policy costings
Table 5.1 Autumn Statement 2022 Policy Decisions
Table 5.2 Growth Plan 2022 Reversals
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>
Policy measures and conditioning assumptions from page 8

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Answer b

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Fiscal and supplementary tables: expenditures

NB Not all tables were updated for November 2022 rollout of Autumn Statement

Economic classification 3.23 Total managed expenditure

Administrative classification departmental budgets

Autumn Statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Functional Table 5.1: Autumn Statement 2022 policy decisions for BY only

Administrative classification Table 2.2 page 21 Departmental budgets

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This doesn't affect the answer, but the reference to Autumn Statement Table 5.1 as a "Functional" table is incorrect (see comments on earlier questions about the functional split of expenditure).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 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-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:

c. Yes, programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented for BY-1.

Source:

Answer A

Please refer to all documents in Autumn Statement, the OBR and the Main Supply Estimates

Autumn Statement 2022 documents, including
Distributional analysis
Policy costings
Table 5.1 Autumn Statement 2022 Policy Decisions
Table 5.2 Growth Plan 2022 Reversals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Policy costings which sets out the assumptions and methodologies used in Government's Policy Decisions since Spring Statement 2022, generally and for some departments, and departmental day-to-day spending

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Departmental Budget Statements can be found for FY2021-22, but only for the year in question

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplementary-estimates-2021-22>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084761/E02762396_HC_396_HMT_Main_Supply_Estimates_22-23_WEB.pdf

Refer to the Excel files found via the following

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented for BY-1.

Comments: As per previous questions on programme-level expenditure, there is no programme-level breakdown of DEL but there is some programme-level AME expenditure available in the OBR's Economic & Fiscal Outlook and supplementary Excel files.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The response is revised from "a" to "c" in light of the comment provided by the peer reviewer.

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:

Answer a

As before, OBR has also generated separate tables detailing changes between March 2022 and the presentation of the Autumn Statement in November 2022

Autumn Statement 2022 documents, including
Distributional analysis
Policy costings
Table 5.1 Autumn Statement 2022 Policy Decisions
Table 5.2 Growth Plan 2022 Reversals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Policy costings which sets out the assumptions and methodologies used in Government's Policy Decisions since Spring Statement 2022, generally and for some departments, and departmental day-to-day spending

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Departmental Budget Statements can be found for FY2021-22, but only for the year in question

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplementary-estimates-2021-22>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084761/E02762396_HC_396_HMT_Main_Supply_Estimates_22-23_WEB.pdf

Refer to the Excel files found via the following

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Answer c

Central Government Supply Estimates 2022-23 Main Supply Estimates

June 2022

NB: Refer to the Main Estimates 2022-2023 as a point of reference to the Autumn Statement and the Autumn Finance Bill

12 May 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Section 6 from page 41 to FR 2020-21

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Fiscal and supplementary tables: expenditures

NB Not all tables were updated for November 2022 rollout of Autumn Statement

Economic classification 3.23 Total managed expenditure

Administrative classification departmental budgets BY-1 only

Autumn Statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Functional Table 5.1: Autumn Statement 2022 policy decisions for BY only

Administrative classification Table 2.2 page 21 Departmental budgets

Outturns BY-1 only

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The OBR also publishes a 'Public sector finances databank' that is updated monthly and also alongside Autumn Statements and Budget. It contains historical time series of expenditure by economic classification.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: Think it is also administrative classification for BY-2 - the main supply estimates show outturn for 2020-21.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084761/E02762396_HC_396_HMT_Main_Supply_Estimates_22-23_WEB.pdf

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted. The existing response of "c" is maintained as the main supply estimates pertain more to the EB and are cited as a point of reference to the Autumn Statement and Finance Bill.

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:

Economic classification

Source:

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Excel file: Fiscal and supplementary tables: expenditures

Economic classification: tab 3.23, Total managed expenditure

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Historical data on expenditure by administrative classification are presented in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses each year, but these are typically published in July rather than as supporting documentation for a Budget.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Administrative and Economic.

Comments: as before suggested change

IBP Comment

Please see the "IBP STAFF" comment at Q22. The existing response of "Economic classification" is maintained.

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 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-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:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

Answer d

As before

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Comments: See here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084761/E02762396_HC_396_HMT_Main_Supply_Estimates_22-23_WEB.pdf and https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/CCS0822661240-002_SECURE_OBR_EFO_November_2022_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf
The EFO was used in the last survey to confirm that for welfare spending program level details showed this. Suggest changing to c.

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted. As the EFO does not appear to provide programmatic-level expenditure details for FY 2020-21, the existing response of "d" is maintained.

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:

Answer e

Central Government Supply Estimates 2022-23 Main Supply Estimates

June 2022

NB: Only table to have historical statistics

3.3 Consistent historical RDEL and CDEL series

Refer to the Main Estimates 2022-2023 as a point of reference to the Autumn Statement and the Autumn Finance Bill

June 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Section 6 from page 41 to FR 2020-21

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Fiscal and supplementary tables: expenditures

NB Not all tables were updated for November 2022 rollout of Autumn Statement

Economic classification 3.23 Total managed expenditure

Administrative classification departmental budgets BY-1 only

Autumn Statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Functional Table 5.1: Autumn Statement 2022 policy decisions for BY only

Administrative classification Table 2.2 page 21 Departmental budgets

Outturns BY-1 only

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: For the 2022 Autumn Statement, the Government and OBR documents were based on PESA expenditure data for 2021-22 that were published in July 2022, as well as the broader monthly ONS public sector finances data. Normally, these statistical details are provided in the OBR's

EFO document, but they were not in November 2022 due to the unusual fiscal timetable through that autumn. But the data were still published in the Autumn Statement edition of the OBR's Public Sector Finances databank, so I would classify this as 'a' rather than 'e'. (See the 'November 2022 (EFO edition)' here: <https://obr.uk/public-finances-databank-2022-23/>)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The additional context provided by the peer reviewer is welcome; in light of this information, the response is revised from "e" to "a."

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:

Answer a

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Excel file: Supplementary fiscal tables: receipts and other

24 November 2022

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Excel file: Supplementary fiscal tables: receipts and other
24 November 2022

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer a but please consider for BY-1 not all data has been reflected to actual revenue collections given policy changes and not all data sets in the OBR forecast include BY-1

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Excel file: Supplementary fiscal tables: receipts and other
24 November 2022

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer b

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: A detailed historical breakdown of receipts by tax head is provided in the 'Receipts £bn' tab of the OBR's Public Sector Finances databank that accompanied the Autumn Statement (see the 'November 2022 (EFO edition)' on this page: <https://obr.uk/public-finances-databank-2022-23/>)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

In light of the additional source highlighted by the peer reviewer, the response is revised from "b" to "a."

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:

Answer d

Although strictly speaking this information can be located in past publications of Public Sector Finances

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: Same comment as for the previous question. This information is provided in the edition of the OBR Public Finances Databank that accompanies the Autumn Statement and OBR Economic & Fiscal Outlook.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

In light of the additional source highlighted by the peer reviewer, the response is revised from "d" to "a."

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:

BY-1 in the supporting documents to Autumn Statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

See also:

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Excel file: "November 2022 Economic and fiscal outlook – supplementary fiscal tables: receipts and other"

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for government debt.

Source:

BY-1 in the supporting documents to Autumn Statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

See also Tables 4.2 and 4.3:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

Office for National Statistics

UK government debt and deficit: June 2022 (release date 28 October 2022)

Quarterly estimates of UK government debt and deficit.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicspending/bulletins/ukgovernmentdebtanddeficitforeurostatmaast/june2022>

The general government gross debt and deficit figures published here (for 1997 onwards) are fully consistent with those in our Public sector finances, UK: August 2022 statistical bulletin, published on 21 September 2022.

Public sector finances, UK: August 2022

How the relationship between UK public sector monthly income and expenditure leads to changes in deficit and debt.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/august2022>

Debt Management Office

2021-2022

Annual Report and Accounts

As at March 2022

From Page 77

11 July 2022

<https://www.dmo.gov.uk/media/qnfbmaa3/dmodmarep2022a.pdf>

From page 94

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

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

Source:

BY-1 in the supporting documents to Autumn Statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

See also Table 4.3: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

Office for National Statistics

UK government debt and deficit: June 2022 (release date 28 October 2022)

Quarterly estimates of UK government debt and deficit.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicspending/bulletins/ukgovernmentdebtanddeficitforeurostatmaast/june2022>

The general government gross debt and deficit figures published here (for 1997 onwards) are fully consistent with those in our Public sector finances, UK: August 2022 statistical bulletin, published on 21 September 2022.

Public sector finances, UK: August 2022

How the relationship between UK public sector monthly income and expenditure leads to changes in deficit and debt.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/august2022>

Debt Management Office

2021-2022

Annual Report and Accounts

As at March 2022

From Page 77

11 July 2022

<https://www.dmo.gov.uk/media/qnfbmaa3/dmodmarep2022a.pdf>

From page 94

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.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:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for all extra-budgetary funds.

Source:

Policy Costings

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118364/Autumn_Statement_2022_Policy_Costings_.pdf

Electricity Generator Levy: implementation of 45% tax on excess returns from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2028 pg 22

Energy Profits Levy pg 52

Office for Budget Responsibility

A brief guide to the public finances: on deficits and surpluses

<https://obr.uk/forecasts-in-depth/brief-guides-and-explainers/public-finances/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The UK's focus on fiscal metrics at the public sector level, rather than at the general or central government level, means that all public sector funds are consolidated within the headline fiscal statistics. The OBR's documentation provides detail on actual and expected receipts of National Insurance Contributions. It does not report on the National Insurance Fund, as this is consolidated within the overall Public Sector Net Debt fiscal metric. The examples provided by the researcher were not extra-budgetary funds, they are simply new (temporary) taxes.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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, including both revenues and expenditures, 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:

a. Yes, central government finances are presented on a consolidated basis.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, central government finances are presented on a consolidated basis.

Comments: This isn't straightforward to answer given the fact that the UK focuses on public sector-wide measures of the public finances, but it would seem more reasonable given the UK's approach to answer 'Yes'. In a narrow sense, the central government's finances and its interlinkages with local government and public corporations are provided in Table 3.4 the OBR's 'supplementary tables: receipts and other'. In a broader sense, the full impact of central government's activities are reflected throughout the Budget documentation via the focus on public sector aggregates.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, central government finances are presented on a consolidated basis.

Comments: As in here

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf finances are presented on a consolidated basis We include extra-budgetary central government finances on a consolidated basis. We produce them on a public sector basis, including state-owned enterprises (public corporations).

IBP Comment

In light of the external reviewers' comments, the response is revised from "b" to "a."

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:

a. Yes, estimates of all intergovernmental transfers are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Answer a

Autumn Statement November 2022

Table 2.2 page 21 Departmental budgets

Refer to Section 2.28 on Total Managed Expenditure from page 24, alongside Table 5.1 of Policy Decisions document found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Page 49 A note on financial transactions

Page 67 Table A.9: Total managed expenditure: changes since March

See fiscal supplementary tables on expenditures and departmental resource budgets

3.23 Total managed expenditure

The local government finance settlement is the annual determination of funding to local government, approved by the House of Commons.

February 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/final-local-government-finance-settlement-england-2022-to-2023>

Provisional settlement consultation results

Final settlement 2022 to 2023

Core spending power of local authorities 2022 to 2023

Other documents related to the 2022 to 2023 final settlement

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 budget 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)
- 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:

Answer c

HM Treasury's Impact on Households: distributional analysis to accompany Autumn Statement :

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118360/Impact_on_households_-_AS22.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Impacts of budget policies by income

Source:

HM Treasury's Impact on Households: distributional analysis to accompany Autumn Statement :

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118360/Impact_on_households_-_AS22.pdf

By age since by implication measuring households by number of adults and children

See Chapter 1 Distributional analysis of tax, welfare and public service spending decisions

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Not sure why an error is showing on this question. There is one alternative presentation, by income, for the distributional analysis published by the Treasury alongside the Autumn Statement.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

Answer a

Autumn Statement November 2022

Refer to Section 2.28 on Total Managed Expenditure from page 24, alongside Table 5.1 of Policy Decisions document found here https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118417/CCS1022065440-001_SECURE_HMT_Autumn_Statement_November_2022_Web_accessible__1_.pdf

Central Government Supply Estimates 2022-23 Main Supply Estimates

June 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Net spending by the department's Arms Length Bodies - Office for Budget Responsibility (including spending on the provision of independent forecasts to the Welsh Government, funded by a transfer from the Welsh Government), the UK Infrastructure Bank, IUK Investments Limited, IUK Investment Holdings Limited, HM Treasury UK Sovereign SUKUK plc, Royal Mint Advisory Committee on the design of coins, medals, seals and decorations, UK Government Investments Limited, the Royal Household, UK Asset Resolution Limited, Help to Buy (HMT) Limited, Reclaim Fund Limited and Pool Reinsurance Company Limited.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See also Table 3.4 of the OBR's 'Supplementary tables: receipts and other'

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well received. Table 3.4 provides Public sector transactions by sub-sector and economic category for non-financial public corporations and the Bank of England, without a narrative discussion. The sources provided by the researcher either do not present qualifying information (in the cited pages of the Autumn Statement) or pertain more to the EB (the Main Supply Estimates). The response has therefore been revised from "a" to "b."

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:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all quasi-fiscal activities.

Source:

Autumn Statement November 2022

Refer to Section 2.28 on Total Managed Expenditure from page 24, alongside Table 5.1 of Policy Decisions and Table 5.2 Growth Plan Reversals document found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

For example Box 3, page 42 Box 3: The implications of the Government's departmental spending plans which reviews discretionary fiscal tightening

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer c

Some mention of financial transactions in assets, others (coupons on gilts, non-financial) but core elements missing

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The OBR usually provides a detailed breakdown of financial assets in its forecast for Public Sector Net Financial Liabilities (and indeed of non-financial assets in its forecast for Public Sector Net Worth), but these details were omitted in the truncated November 2022 publication.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer d
No substantial data provided.

Refer to Whole of Government Accounts, 2019-20
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whole-of-government-accounts-2019-20>
6 June 2022

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Typically some information is presented, but as per previous comment it was not presented alongside Autumn Statement 2022.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Source:

Answer e

Budget carried out on accruals basis however answer ought to be considered on the particularities of the EBP

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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.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 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:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all contingent liabilities.

Source:

Answer b

Autumn Statement November 2022

From page 44 Contingent Liabilities, tables and analysis

Table 4.4 on new and significant contingent liabilities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Although not part of the EBP

refer, if needed, to Whole of Government Accounts for comparative information, in which case the answer may be [a]

Accounts, 2019-20

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whole-of-government-accounts-2019-20>

6 June 2022

Page 23

In April 2021, the Contingent Liability Central Capability (CLCC) was launched as an analytical and advisory unit within UK Government Investments (UKGI). The remit of the CLCC is to provide analysis on the design of new contingent liability proposals; review existing contingent liabilities on an individual and portfolio basis to inform risk management and contingency planning; and to provide guidance and promote best practice across government.

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for all contingent liabilities.

Comments: As mentioned by the reviewer, the Whole Government of Accounts, alongside the other publications, including the AS and main estimates provides extensive focus on CLs. E.g. here

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084761/E02762396_HC_396_HMT_Main_Supply_Estimates_22-23_WEB.pdf extensive mention of CLs in Parts 3 Note K

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well received. As Parts 3 Note K consist of statements of purpose/policy rationales, but not every liability has exposure estimates associated with it, the existing response of "b" is maintained.

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:

Answer e

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table A.5: Fiscal aggregates
Page 21 commentary which refers to

Fiscal risks and sustainability – 7 July 2022 - although this is not part of the EBP

<https://obr.uk/frs/fiscal-risks-and-sustainability-july-2022/>

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This could also be answered 'd' since the extensive reporting on fiscal sustainability is presented in a standalone report rather than within the EBP. Either way, it would not convey particularly well how the UK authorities provide the public with information about long-term fiscal sustainability.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The response is revised from "e" to "d" on the basis of the peer reviewer's comment and to ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across countries.

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:

e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Source:

Answer E

U.K. does not receive foreign aid

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Policy Costings and Growth Plan Reversals can be found here, including links to data on Excel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Policy Decisions Table 5.1 and relevant sections

Comment:

As in previous years the publication Impact on households: distributional analysis to accompany Autumn Statement 2022 for example shows impact on households not as an impact of tax expenditures

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118360/Impact_on_households_-_AS22.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The EBP itself provides very little information on the overall cost of tax expenditures. Table 5.1 provides information on the impact of new tax expenditures or changes to existing ones, while the OBR's expenditure forecast includes estimates of the overall costs of those tax credits that the ONS has deemed should score as full public expenditure (such as R&D and other company tax credits). But HMRC does present detailed estimates of many tax expenditures in an annual statistical report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/main-tax-expenditures-and-structural-reliefs>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 individual earmarked revenues and a narrative discussing the earmarks. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all individual 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:

a. Yes, estimates of all earmarked revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Policy Costings and Growth Plan Reversals can be found here, including links to data on Excel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It is very rare in the UK for revenues to be earmarked.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, estimates that show how the proposed budget is linked to all the government's policy goals for the budget year are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Policy Costings and Growth Plan Reversals can be found here, including links to data on Excel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, estimates that show how the proposed budget is linked to all the government's policy goals for a multi-year period are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Policy Costings and Growth Plan Reversals can be found here, including links to data on Excel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

d. No, nonfinancial data on inputs are not presented.

Source:

Answer d

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

d. No, nonfinancial data on results are not presented.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

d. No, performance targets are not assigned to nonfinancial data on results, or the budget does not present nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

Answer d

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 as 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 and 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:

Answer a

Welfare spending is the biggest source of AME spending, with universal credit and other benefits accounting for 28 per cent of total welfare spending in 2022-23 (down from 31 per cent in 2021-22).

OBR November 2022 Economic and fiscal outlook features forecasts for individual benefits are available in supplementary table 3.7
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Policy Costings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Treasury's distributional analysis, published alongside the Autumn Statement, also provides information on the effect of new policy measures on those at the bottom of the income distribution.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, a timetable is released, but some details are excluded.

Source:

Answer b

There is no detailed timeline for release, but there is a process and based on this the public is given a date for the next fiscal event

Refer to the Budget and Parliament and supporting documents

<https://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/publications/guides/how-does-parliament-approve-the-budget>

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/check-and-approve-government-spending-and-taxation/the-budget-and-parliament/#:~:text=Each%20year%20the%20Chancellor%20of,which%20enacts%20the%20Chancellor%27s%20proposals.>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-new-budget-timetable-and-the-tax-policy-making-process/the-new-budget-timetable-and-the-tax-policy-making-process>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See also: https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/17-November-forecast-timetable.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Per Section 1 (indicators PBS-1 to PBS-8), the Pre-Budget Statement is considered not publicly available. Response "d" is selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Comments: The EFO https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/CCS0822661240-002_SECURE_OBR_EFO_November_2022_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf discusses all the core elements, plus explores employment rate projections and interest rates projections.

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted. Per the "IBP STAFF" comment at PBS-2, the existing response of "d" is maintained.

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:

Per Section 1 (indicators PBS-1 to PBS-8), the Pre-Budget Statement is considered not publicly available. Response "d" is selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the government's expenditure policies and priorities.

Comments: See EFO https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/CCS0822661240-002_SECURE_OBR_EFO_November_2022_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf Table A8: total managed expenditure, and A9, which looks at changes in forecast expenditure since previous event.

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted. Per the "IBP STAFF" comment at PBS-2, the existing response of "d" is maintained.

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:

Per Section 1 (indicators PBS-1 to PBS-8), the Pre-Budget Statement is considered not publicly available. Response "d" is selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/CCS0822661240-002_SECURE_OBR_EFO_November_2022_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf See table A6 and A7 for description of receipts by individual source. Focus on some tax revenues, e.g. oil and gas.

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted. Per the "IBP STAFF" comment at PBS-2, the existing response of "d" is maintained.

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:

Per Section 1 (indicators PBS-1 to PBS-8), the Pre-Budget Statement is considered not publicly available. Response "d" is selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: As before: https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/CCS0822661240-002_SECURE_OBR_EFO_November_2022_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf Net debt: Table 6 p47 Net new borrowing: Chart 2 p7, table 5 p44 Interest payments: Table A9 p63, comment on debt interest payments

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted. Per the "IBP STAFF" comment at PBS-2, the existing response of "d" is maintained.

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:

Per Section 1 (indicators PBS-1 to PBS-8), the Pre-Budget Statement is considered not publicly available. Response "b" is selected.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented.

Comments: as before: https://obr.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/CCS0822661240-002_SECURE_OBR_EFO_November_2022_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf Table A8/9 p 62/3. expenditure forecasts up until 2026-27.

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well noted. Per the "IBP STAFF" comment at PBS-2, the existing response of "b" is maintained.

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:

As noted, researcher feels the EB should be Mains Estimate (July 2022) -please review and consider. The Finance Bill was agreed unamended by 30 November 2022, but was made into law in January 2023, after the cut-off date.

Central Government Supply Estimates 2022-23 Main Supply Estimates
June 2022

NB: Refer to the Main Estimates 2022-2023 as a point of reference to the Autumn Statement and the Autumn Finance Bill, 12 May 2022
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Breakout of expenditures in the Main Supply estimates are shown for departmental budgets and total managed expenditure, but not for economic classification which can be found

Office for Budget Responsibility Charts and Tables, Table
Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Supplementary fiscal tables: expenditure
24 November 2022

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Comments: As per previous questions related to functional classification, this is only available in PESA publications, not Main Estimates (or the Budget or Autumn Statement). So I would answer 'one': the administrative breakdown.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The response is revised from "b" to "c" per the peer reviewer's comment and to ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across evaluated countries.

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:

Administrative and Functional

Departmental Budget Statements can be found for FY2021-22, but only for the year in question

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplementary-estimates-2021-22>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084761/E02762396_HC_396_HMT_Main_Supply_Estimates_22-23_WEB.pdf

Central Government Supply Estimates 2022-23 Main Supply Estimates

June 2022

12 May 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Section 6 from page 41 to FR 2020-21

Part III: Note A - Forecast Combined Revenue Account &

Reconciliation Table

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Administrative classification, only

Comments: See comment on previous question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Please see the "IBP STAFF" comment at Q59; the response "functional classification" is de-selected.

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Expenditure estimates by Department

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Receipts shown by Department

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This answer is clearly contingent on having selected Main Estimates to represent the EB, since they are an expenditure publication.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See comment on previous question.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/main-supply-estimates-2022-to-23>

Answer d

The EB does not contain this information.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same comment as previous question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer d

Comment:

A citizens budget is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer d

Comment:

A citizens budget is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer d

Comment:

A citizens budget is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer d

Comment:

A citizens budget is not publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Public sector finances, UK: November 2022 (final release date before end December 2022)

How the relationship between UK public sector monthly income and expenditure leads to changes in deficit and debt. (release date 21 December 2022)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022#:~:text=Public%20sector%20total%20receipts%20were,more%20than%20in%20November%202021>.

Tables include forecast data published in the OBR Economic and fiscal outlook – November 2022.

Worksheet PSA10: Public sector transactions by sub-sector and economic category, UK, not seasonally adjusted

PSA6C Central Government Account :

Total Revenue , Total Expenditure and Net Borrowing

Some discussion of selected departmental spending and budgets but not all

Comment:

See OSCAR databases for spending by department

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database: 21 December 2022

The second quarterly OSCAR transparency release for 2022 to 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-december-2022>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Economic classification

Administrative classification

Source:

Public sector finances, UK: November 2022 (final release date before end December 2022)

How the relationship between UK public sector monthly income and expenditure leads to changes in deficit and debt. (release date 21 December 2022)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022#:~:text=Public%20sector%20total%20receipts%20were,more%20than%20in%20November%202021.>

Tables include forecast data published in the OBR Economic and fiscal outlook – November 2022.

Worksheet PSA10: Public sector transactions by sub-sector and economic category, UK, not seasonally adjusted

PSA6C Central Government Account :

Total Revenue , Total Expenditure and Net Borrowing

See OSCAR databases for spending by department

OSCAR II – publishing data from the database: 21 December 2022

The second quarterly OSCAR transparency release for 2022 to 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-december-2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 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," 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:

b. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures.

Source:

answer b

See OSCAR databases for spending below department level
OSCAR II – publishing data from the database: 21 December 2022
The second quarterly OSCAR transparency release for 2022 to 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oscar-ii-publishing-data-from-the-database-december-2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Answer a

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022#:~:text=Public%20sector%20total%20receipts%20were,more%20than%20in%20November%202021>.

Public sector finances revisions analysis on main fiscal aggregates: Appendix C
Dataset | Released 21 December 2022

Revisions analysis for central government receipts, expenditure, net borrowing and net cash requirement statistics for the UK over the last five years.

Table 7: Central government expenditure
Central government expenditure in financial year-to-November 2022 compared with the same period a year earlier, UK

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See also the OBR's monthly commentary on the ONS data: <https://obr.uk/monthly-public-finances-briefing/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category.

Source:

Answer a

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022#:~:text=Public%20sector%20total%20receipts%20were,more%20than%20in%20November%202021.>

Public sector finances revisions analysis on main fiscal aggregates: Appendix C

Dataset | Released 21 December 2022

Revisions analysis for central government receipts, expenditure, net borrowing and net cash requirement statistics for the UK over the last five years.

Public sector current receipts: Appendix D

Dataset | Released 21 December 2022

A breakdown of UK public sector income by latest month, financial year-to-date and full financial year, with comparisons with the same period in the previous financial year.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022#:~:text=Public%20sector%20total%20receipts%20were,more%20than%20in%20November%202021.>

Public sector finances revisions analysis on main fiscal aggregates: Appendix C

Dataset | Released 21 December 2022

Revisions analysis for central government receipts, expenditure, net borrowing and net cash requirement statistics for the UK over the last five years.

Public sector current receipts: Appendix D

Dataset | Released 21 December 2022

A breakdown of UK public sector income by latest month, financial year-to-date and full financial year, with comparisons with the same period in the previous financial year.

See also Table 2: Central government current receipts

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Answer a

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022#:~:text=Public%20sector%20total%20receipts%20were,more%20than%20in%20November%202021.>

Public sector current receipts: Appendix D

Dataset | Released 21 December 2022

A breakdown of UK public sector income by latest month, financial year-to-date and full financial year, with comparisons with the same period in the previous financial year.

See also Table 2: Central government current receipts

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See also the OBR's monthly commentary on the ONS statistical release: <https://obr.uk/monthly-public-finances-briefing/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

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

Source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/november2022#:~:text=Public%20sector%20total%20receipts%20were,more%20than%20in%20November%202021>

Interest payments - Table 3

Net new borrowing - Table 9

Total outstanding debt - See section on Revisions to public sector net debt

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

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

Source:

Debt Management Office Quarterly Review:
<https://www.dmo.gov.uk/media/e1ekgoew/apr-jun-2022.pdf>

domestic vs external debt: page 3
maturity profile and interest rates: pages 5-7
information beyond the core elements: page 1

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the estimates for the macroeconomic forecast have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated forecasts is presented.

Source:

answer a

Autumn Statement 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Table 5.1 Autumn Statement 2022 Policy Decisions

Table 5.2 Growth Plan 2022 Reversals

Both tables use information from

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on the same day as the Autumn Statement 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on the same day as the Autumn Statement 17 November 2022.
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>
page 68 Table A.9: Total managed expenditure: changes since March

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents expenditure estimates by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Answer b

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on the same day as the Autumn Statement 17 November 2022.
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

administrative

Table 1: Total effect of Government decisions since March with discussion on departmental spending from page 14, section 11

economic classification

Table A.8: Total managed expenditure
page 68

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: See also Table 2.1 and 2.2 of the Government's Autumn Statement document.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

Economic classification

Source:

Administrative and economic

Answer b

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on the same day as the Autumn Statement 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

administrative

Table 1: Total effect of Government decisions since March with discussion on departmental spending from page 14, section 11

economic classification

Table A.8: Total managed expenditure

page 68

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same comment as for previous question

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents estimates for programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures.

Source:

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Annex A, A.5 Fiscal Aggregates;

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents estimates for programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures.

Comments: As per the earlier question on program-level expenditures, no program-level material is presented for DELs (around half of total expenditure), but it is presented for welfare/social security spending (around a third of total expenditure).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well-noted regarding the content of the Economic and Fiscal Outlook charts and tables from 17 Nov 2022. The response is revised from "b" to "c."

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:

a. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is presented.

Source:

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on the same day as the Autumn Statement 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table A.6: Current receipts

Table A.7: Current receipts: changes since March

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on the same day as the Autumn Statement 17 November 2022.
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table A.6: Current receipts

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

Answer a

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on the same day as the Autumn Statement 17 November 2022.
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table A.6: Current receipts

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, estimates of government borrowing and debt have been updated, and information on all of the differences between the original and updated estimates is presented.

Source:

Answer a as discussion is included on changes

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Annex A, A.5 Fiscal Aggregates; A.8 Total Managed Expenditure; A9 changes since March 2022

On Spending from section 39, and revisions to previous spending plans

Chart 18: The rise in the spending-to-GDP ratio between 2019-20 and 2027-28

Table 3: Debt interest spending: changes since March

From Section 42 on debt interest spending

Borrowing from section 47

Chart 20: Public sector net borrowing: changes since March

Table 5: Public sector net borrowing: changes since March

(this information appears in various forms in the Autumn Statement November 2022) - compare with
Debt Management Office
2021-2022
Annual Report and Accounts
As at March 2022
From Page 77
11 July 2022
<https://www.dmo.gov.uk/media/qnfbmaa3/dmodmarep2022a.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Answer a, given particularities of the particular fiscal year, please consider all documents cited to meet requirements for a Autumn Statement documents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

Table 5.1 Autumn Statement 2022 Policy Decisions

Table 5.2 Growth Plan 2022 Reversals

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2022

20 July 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Whole of Government Accounts, 2019-20, published 6 June 2022

This publication contains the Whole of Government Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whole-of-government-accounts-2019-20>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

Answer a

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2022

20 July 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Total Managed Expenditure, by budgetary category (PESA 2019, Table 1.1);

• resource and capital elements of Departmental Expenditure Limits and Annually Managed

Expenditure by departmental group (PESA 2019, Tables 1.3 and 1.8);

• public sector expenditure on services by function (PESA 2019, Table 4.2); and

• public sector expenditure on services by economic category (PESA 2019, Table 5.3).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The table citations provided by the researcher should refer to "PESA 2022."

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:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2022
20 July 2022
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Total Managed Expenditure, by budgetary category (PESA 2019, Table 1.1);

- resource and capital elements of Departmental Expenditure Limits and Annually Managed Expenditure by departmental group (PESA 2019, Tables 1.3 and 1.8);
- public sector expenditure on services by function (PESA 2019, Table 4.2); and
- public sector expenditure on services by economic category (PESA 2019, Table 5.3).

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The table citations provided by the researcher should refer to "PESA 2022."

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:

Please see note pg 5
Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2022
20 July 2022
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

"How much did the government spend on x?"

The answer varies depending upon which levels of government you are interested in, and what sort of spending."

However, details are needed on organizational or programme spending at the level below each Department. Response "d" applies.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

OBR

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table A.5: Fiscal aggregates

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2022

20 July 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2022>

Annually Managed Expenditure from page 202

Comment:

Chapter 4 contains long-run series (from 1995-96) for public sector expenditure on services by function. Historic long-run series of the budgeting aggregates are not available, due to the restructuring of government departments and the movement of spending programmes between departments. These changes do not impact on the expenditure on services framework.

Users are strongly advised against simply splicing data together from different editions of PESA, as data is unlikely to be directly consistent due to changes in coverage and classification. Departments and the devolved administrations maintain five years of live outturn data. Data for earlier years exist only on archived databases and are not therefore adjusted for machinery of government and classification changes. The PESA team maintain a summarised version of this historical data on a consistent basis for the production of the long-run series.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table A.6: Current receipts

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Double-check that it is consistent to use OBR material from alongside the Autumn Statement in answer to a question about the Year-End Report. If this should only refer to PESA, the answer would be 'b'.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

Office for Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022, charts and tables

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table A.6: Current receipts

From page 35 Fiscal outlook
Receipts

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same comment as for previous question.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, estimates of the differences between all the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

For example

Table 5: Public sector net borrowing: changes since March,

Table 6: Public sector net debt (excluding Bank of England): changes since March from page 42 including analysis

Net debt - Section 53 Debt and other balance sheet aggregates

Borrowing - p. 63 Table A.5: Fiscal aggregates

Chart 22: Four measures of the public sector balance sheet

Interest payments Page 66 Table A.8: Total managed expenditure

From page 41 including Table 3: Debt interest spending: changes since March

Office for National Statistics

UK government debt and deficit: June 2022 (release date 28 October 2022)

Quarterly estimates of UK government debt and deficit.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicspending/bulletins/ukgovernmentdebtanddeficitforeurostatmaast/june2022>

The general government gross debt and deficit figures published here (for 1997 onwards) are fully consistent with those in our Public sector finances, UK: August 2022 statistical bulletin, published on 21 September 2022.

Public sector finances, UK: August 2022

How the relationship between UK public sector monthly income and expenditure leads to changes in deficit and debt.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/august2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This answer seems correct, but the error message suggests that it should perhaps be 'C' because domestic/external debt is not covered.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well received. While not all estimates have been updated (see Q90b), those that are have all differences explained.

The existing response of "b" is maintained in order to ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across countries.

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:

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

Interest rates on the debt

Maturity profile of the debt

Source:

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Table A.5: Fiscal aggregates

Table A.8: Total managed expenditure

Table 5: Public sector net borrowing: changes since March,

Table 6: Public sector net debt (excluding Bank of England): changes since March from page 42 including analysis

Net debt - Section 53 Debt and other balance sheet aggregates

Borrowing - p. 63 Table A.5: Fiscal aggregates

Chart 22: Four measures of the public sector balance sheet

Interest payments Page 66 Table A.8: Total managed expenditure

From page 41 including Table 3: Debt interest spending: changes since March

From page 47 Borrowing section 47

Office for National Statistics

UK government debt and deficit: June 2022 (release date 28 October 2022)

Quarterly estimates of UK government debt and deficit.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicspending/bulletins/ukgovernmentdebtanddeficitforeurostatmaast/june2022>

The general government gross debt and deficit figures published here (for 1997 onwards) are fully consistent with those in our Public sector finances, UK: August 2022 statistical bulletin, published on 21 September 2022.

Public sector finances, UK: August 2022

How the relationship between UK public sector monthly income and expenditure leads to changes in deficit and debt.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/august2022>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. 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:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Answer a

Chart 1: Real GDP

From page 30 Nominal GDP, profits and the current account

Chart 14: Comparison of forecasts for CPI inflation and real GDP

Chart 19: Debt interest spending relative to GDP and revenues

Table 7: Performance against the Government's legislated and proposed targets

from page 15 Box 1: The demand-and supply-side effects of policy measures

Chart 19: Debt interest spending relative to GDP and revenues

Table 3: Debt interest spending: changes since March

From page 30 section 26 Nominal GDP, profits and the current account

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same comment as for previous questions re use of OBR material published alongside Autumn Statement as the YER.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Nominal GDP level
Inflation rate
Real GDP growth
Interest rates
Information beyond the core elements

Source:

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>
All the above

Chart 1: Real GDP

From page 30 Nominal GDP, profits and the current account

Chart 14: Comparison of forecasts for CPI inflation and real GDP

Chart 19: Debt interest spending relative to GDP and revenues

Table 7: Performance against the Government's legislated and proposed targets

from page 15 Box 1: The demand-and supply-side effects of policy measures

Chart 19: Debt interest spending relative to GDP and revenues

Table 3: Debt interest spending: changes since March

From page 30 section 26 Nominal GDP, profits and the current account

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same comment as for previous question.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Yes, estimate of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented.

Source:

Answer c
Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>
Section 28 page 31 on private sector profits
Chart D: Planned SR21 and implied post-SR21 breakdown of RDEL spending

public sector net worth (PSNW)
Chart 22: Four measures of the public sector balance sheet
aggregate including non-financial

As per OBR document:

the forecast beyond the current Spending Review period is based on overall current and capital spending totals set by the Treasury rather than detailed plans. But we can explore the implications of these cuts in the growth of public services spending by considering what existing input targets and past commitments in some areas imply for growth in spending in other areas not covered by such targets – often termed ‘unprotected’ spending. Specifically, we have looked at the proposed post-SR21 RDEL path based on the following assumptions:

- Spending on the NHS in England grows in real terms by 3.1 per cent a year, which would maintain the spending growth rate originally planned in the 2021 Spending Review for the period from 2019-20 to 2024-25 (excluding temporary Covid-related spending). This is slightly less than the 3.4 per cent a year real-terms growth that resulted from Prime

Minister May’s June 2018 NHS settlement.

-

Core schools spending is held flat per-pupil in real terms, reflecting then Chancellor Sunak’s statement that SR21 restored per pupil spending to 2010 levels in real terms.b

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same comment as for previous question.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer c

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

public sector net worth (PSNW)
Chart 22: Four measures of the public sector balance sheet
aggregate including non-financial

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The information provided is very limited—i.e. estimates of aggregate non-financial assets within the public sector net worth forecast. A case could also be made for answer 'd' if this weren't considered to be an "output or outcome" as intended by the question. And same comment as for previous question re use of OBR material from alongside the Autumn Statement as the YER.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted. Given the highly limited non-financial information presented in Chart 22, the response is revised from "c" to "d" to ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across evaluated countries.

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:

Answer d

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

OBR

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

from page 36 including Chart 15: National Accounts taxes as a share of GDP some information on NICs, aggregate

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Same comment as for previous questions re use of OBR material from alongside Autumn Statement as the YER.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, a financial statement is part of the Year-End Report or is released as a separate report.

Source:

Answer a

This publication contains the Whole of Government Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 published 6 June 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whole-of-government-accounts-2019-20>

Analysis of the WGA Financial Statements for 2019-20, including trend data and additional context for key balances from page 41

Balance sheet review page 22

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-100-fundamental-principles-of-public-sector-auditing/>) 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:

b. The SAI has conducted two of the three types of audits, and made them available to the public.

Source:

National Audit Office Departmental, audit of financial statements and compliance checklists can be found for each department
https://www.nao.org.uk/?s=financial+audit&post_type=&topic=&department=&start_year=2021&end_year=2022&orderby=
https://www.nao.org.uk/?s=compliance&post_type=&topic=&department=&start_year=2021&end_year=2022&orderby=
<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/compliance-checklist-3/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. The SAI has conducted all three types of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) and made them available to the public.

Comments: The NAO carries out many performance audits too: https://www.nao.org.uk/?s=performance&post_type=any

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. The SAI has conducted all three types of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) and made them available to the public.

Comments: https://www.nao.org.uk/?s=&post_type=overview&topic=&department=&start_year=2021&end_year=2022&orderby=
https://www.nao.org.uk/?s=performance&post_type=&topic=&department=&start_year=2021&end_year=2022&orderby= Performance is also audited.

IBP Comment

The comments from the external reviewers are well noted. While performance audits are conducted, the lack of a publicly available financial audit/AR due to the late publication of the audited WGA 2020-21 (as discussed in the "AR" indicators in Section 1) means that response "b" should be retained per the Q97 guidelines.

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:

d. No expenditures have been audited.

Source:

Comment:

Per Section 1 (questions AR-1 to AR-8), the Whole of Government Accounts 2019-20 were published late. Response "d" applies.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: This answer is correct as the question is drafted ("Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question"), but it is quite misleading. The NAO audited all expenditure via the accounts of individual departments and agencies.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

d. No extra-budgetary funds have been audited.

Source:

Comment:

Per Section 1 (questions AR-1 to AR-8), the Whole of Government Accounts 2019-20 were published late. Response "d" applies.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Comment:

Per Section 1 (questions AR-1 to AR-8), the Whole of Government Accounts 2019-20 were published late. Response "b" applies.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" 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:

a. Yes, the executive reports publicly on what steps it has taken to address audit findings.

Source:

Answer a

The NAO supports the work of the Public Accounts Committees. The PAC takes evidence from senior officials of the organisations under scrutiny.
<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/207/public-accounts-commission>

Annual Report and Accounts

REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL SESSION 2021-22

22 JUNE 2021

HC 296

See p. 9 of the Annual NAO report that confirms that staff participated in 63 evidence sessions, plus select committee sessions

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6360/documents/69817/default/>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The error message suggests that this should be answered 'd' because the WGA are published with a long lag. But the researcher's answer and justification look reasonable as an evaluation of the NAO's audit activities and the process by which the Government engages with its recommendations through the Public Accounts Committee. The Government also published a Treasury Minute responding to the PAC's report (the third section of a Treasury Minute responding to several PAC reports):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1122990/E02834819_CP_774_TM_GovResp_to_PAC_18-22_Accessible.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit recommendations.

Source:

Please see the Recommendations Tracker maintained by the National Audit Office:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/recommendations-tracker/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer**Opinion:** Agree**Comments:** As with the previous question, the error message suggests that the answer should be 'd' because of the lag in publishing the WGA. But again, given the NAO's comprehensive, searchable and downloadable recommendations tracker, the researcher's answer seems reasonable.**Government Reviewer****Opinion:** Agree**IBP Comment**

The comment from the peer reviewer is well noted. Per the Q102 guidelines, "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." The existing "a" response is maintained.

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:

a. Yes, there is an IFI, its independence is set in law, and it has sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks.

Source:

OBR is an executive non-departmental, independent public body, sponsored by HM Treasury

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-budget-responsibility>

<https://obr.uk>

Comment:

Answer a

Related material

Office for Budget Responsibility and HM Treasury framework

This updated framework document sets out the broad governance and management rules within which the OBR operates.

7 March 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/office-for-budget-responsibility-and-hm-treasury-framework>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the IFI publishes its own macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts.

Source:

The OBR fiscal and economic forecasts coincide with Budget Day and the Spending Review, an event that is usually held every three years

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on same day budget was presented 17 November 2022.

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Comment:

Answer a

Supporting documents following the same link

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the IFI publishes its own costings of all new policy proposals.

Source:

Office for Budget Responsibility published Economic and Fiscal outlook on 17 November 2022.
<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2022/>

Please see pages 37 to 48.

Comment:

answer a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Frequently (i.e., five times or more).

Source:

Evidence to Parliament on forecasts, appointments, the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly and other matters
<https://obr.uk/transparency/evidence-to-parliaments/>
including November 2022 Autumn Statement and March 2022 Budget

Oral evidence transcripts can be found on the Parliament site

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/?SearchTerm=office+for+budget+responsibility&DateFrom=&DateTo=&SessionId=>

Comment:

answer a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Yes, the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but it does not approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Source:

The budget and the finance bill lay out future spending plans and taxation policy. To note that government budget measures are subject to less scrutiny, but taxation requires House of Commons approval of the budget resolution and the subsequent finance bill.

Spending is approved by Parliament 1- before the end of the financial year. This is known as the Supply and Appropriations Bill; and 2 shortly after the new financial year when Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Bill is enacted and published.

Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2022

14 July 2022

CHAPTER 39, authorises use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2023.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted> [14th July 2022]

Comment:

answer c

A note on Debates on the Budget Resolutions

The Shadow Chancellor responds to the Budget the day after the Chancellor's presentation and during the Budget debates. It is customary for the Leader of the Opposition rather than the Shadow Chancellor replies to the Budget Speech.

The Budget is usually followed by four days of debate on the Budget Resolutions, including tax measures and policy areas.

If the House of Commons agrees to budget resolutions at the end of the four days of debate, these come into effect immediately. However the enactment of the Finance Bill to gives Budget Resolutions permanent legal effect.
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/bills-and-legislation/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

The EBP is taken as the Autumn Statement 17 November 2022

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least three months before the start of the budget year.

Comments: If the EBP is taken as AS22, this is more than three months before the start of the fiscal year for the UK (April 2023), so the answer should be A. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents>

IBP Comment

The government reviewer's comment is well received. As the Autumn Statement reversed many of the tax changes of the Growth Plan and laid out revised tax and spending decisions for 2022-23 (see EBP-1a), the existing response of "d" is maintained.

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:

d. The legislature approves the budget more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Source:

Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2022

14 July 2022

CHAPTER 39, authorises use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2023.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/39/contents/enacted> [14th July 2022]

Comment:

answer d

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Yes, the legislature has authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but its authority is very limited.

Source:

Answer C

Check and approve Government spending and taxation

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/check-and-approve-government-spending-and-taxation/>

Comment:

Budget approval occurs in two main stages. In the first stage, parliamentary debate and voting provisionally allows government to make changes to tax. This occurs after the Budget speech and the purpose is to secure provisional agreements for new tax measures, changes to existing taxes or any other matters that government wants to push through before the Finance Bill is passed. Budget resolutions are debated in the House of Commons for four days and must be agreed upon within 10 days of the Budget.

In the second stage budget is enacted through the Finance Bill which turns provisional budget arrangements into law. At least one budget resolution must be passed to form the basis of the Finance Bill, which moves through parliamentary stages like other bills. The exception being that the Finance Bill must go through the House of Lords. Traditionally, Commons privilege on financial matters means that the House of Lords does not amend or vote against any provision in the Finance Bill. The Finance Bill needs to receive its second reading within 30 days of the passage of budget resolutions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

answer c

Comment:

NB The EBP is taken as the November 2022 Autumn Statement and the subsequent Finance Bill. The answer would be c for the following reasons, noting the Finance Bill passed with no amendments before the OBS methodology cut off date of 30 November 2022, but was enacted in January 2023

NB: The Finance Bill enacts the proposals for taxation made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget statement and brings them into law.

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2022-23

Sent 22 November 2022; second reading on 28 November; remaining stages undertaken 30 November. No amendments or new clauses introduced

and the Bill was agreed on 30 November.
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3376>

The Finance Act 2023 received Royal Assent on 10 January 2023 (Votes and Proceedings No.97 (PDF), 10 January 2023).

<https://commonsbusiness.parliament.uk/Document/62103/Pdf?subType=Standard>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

The Treasury Committee published the oral transcripts of its series of evidence sessions on the Autumn Statement:
<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6933/autumn-2022-fiscal-events/publications/oral-evidence/>

Comment:

answer b since the OBR report was published on the same day the Autumn Statement was presented

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The TSC did not publish a report on its findings from the hearings on Autumn Statement 2022. Indeed, it did not publish a report following the Budget in March 2023 either: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7373/budget-2023/publications/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

<https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/commons/scrutinyunit/about-us/>

Comment:

answer c

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. No, sector committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Comments: Sector Committees do not have a role in scrutinising the Autumn Statement or Budget in the UK Parliament - only the Treasury Select Committee looks at these documents. Instead, Sector Committees' main role on Budget matters is through scrutiny of the Estimates process, as described here: <https://guidetoprocEDURE.parliament.uk/articles/TTUUmFL/select-committee-scrutiny-of-estimates>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, sector committees examined the Executive's Budget Proposal, but they did not publish reports with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Comments: Flagging - Researcher chose answer E, but the comment indicates answer C should have been selected instead.

IBP Comment

Based on the additional context provided by the peer reviewer, the response is revised from "e" to "d."

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:

n/a

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, a committee examined in-year implementation on at least three occasions during a fiscal year, and it published reports with findings and recommendations.

Comments: See at least three different reports/debates on the MEA here: <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/commons/scrutinyunit/reports-and-publications/main-estimates-2022-23/>

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well noted. As the debates and reports linked to at <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/commons/scrutinyunit/reports-and-publications/main-estimates-2022-23/> are focused more on spending estimates for future activities rather than in-progress budget execution, 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:

a. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice.

Source:

HM Treasury
Supplementary Estimates

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplementary-estimates-2021-22>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/out-of-turn-supplementary-estimates-2022-23#full-publication-update-history>

Comment:

answer a

As before, but take note of the date of publication

Supplementary estimates can be debated on Estimates Day. Supplementary estimates are generally published weeks before the end of the fiscal year (usually in February) and are amendments to departmental spending that have previously been authorised by the House of Commons in the main estimates. Supplementary estimates are approved in March before the main estimates for the following year are published. Parliamentary authority is required to disburse additional resources, capital or funding for existing and for new services or programmes.

22 February 2022 (date published)

Out of turn Supplementary Estimates were published on 18 October 2022 with an update 17 November 2022 the day the Autumn Statement was presented

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and it does so in practice.

Source:

Supplementary Estimates

22 February 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplementary-estimates-2021-22>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/out-of-turn-supplementary-estimates-2022-23#full-publication-update-history>

Comment:

answer a

Parliamentary authority is required to disburse additional resources, capital or funding for existing and for new services or programmes.

Parliament votes to approve emergency funding, effectively approving these ex post facto. HM Treasury's use of funds is scrutinized by the Public Accounts Committee. Monies borrowed and receipts from loans issued by government flow from the Consolidated Fund.

21 October 2022 Consolidated Fund Account

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmt-central-funds>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, and in practice the executive implements these spending cuts before seeking prior approval from the legislature.

Source:

Comment:

answer d

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget within six months (but more than three months) of its availability, and it published a report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

Reports by the National Audit Office are reviewed by the Public Accounts Committee.

Committee of Public Accounts Whole of Government Accounts 2019–20
Twentieth Report of Session 2022–23:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6679/whole-of-government-accounts/publications/>

Comment:

answer a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget within six months (but more than three months) of its availability, and it published a report with findings and recommendations.

Comments: The PAC report on WGA 2019-20 was published on 14 October, which was just over 4 months after the WGA themselves were published on 6 June.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The comment from the peer reviewer is well noted. The response is revised from "a" to "b."

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:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be appointed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the appointment takes effect.

Source:

answer a

<https://www.nao.org.uk/about-us/governance/>

Comment:

Governance of the NAO

The Act

The NAO's governance arrangements reflect our statutory position, balancing the need for appropriate controls and oversight against the preservation of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (C&AG) independence. This balance is recognised in the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011, which establishes the statutory basis for the NAO's governance.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Code-of-Practice-dealing-with-the-relationship-between-the-NAO-and-the-Comptroller-and-Auditor-General.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

answer a

The NAO's governance arrangements are established under the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011 (BRANNA), which states that both Houses of Parliament need to give consent to remove the Comptroller and Auditor General.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/4/contents/enacted>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Specifically: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/4/section/14/enacted>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. The SAI determines its own budget (i.e., 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 by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:

answer a

National Audit Office
Annual Report and Accounts

30 June 2022

<https://www.nao.org.uk/corporate-information/nao-annual-report-and-accounts-2021-22/>

Comment:

The Public Accounts Commission (TPAC) oversees the work of the NAO. TPAC approves the budget and scrutinises cost and performance.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/about-us/governance/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

The Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 sets out the statutory basis for resourced-based supply and financial reporting across central government departments, as well as for the production of the Whole of Government Accounts. Under the act ,HM Treasury has the power to appoint the C&AG as the external auditor of any public body, and to grant the Comptroller & Auditor General access to third party documents are required to carry out the audit.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/20/contents>

The NAO audits government departments, government agencies and non-departmental public bodies. This is required by law does not mean the NAO chooses which audits to carry out.

'By statute we must perform audits of public sector organisations for Parliament.'

<https://www.nao.org.uk/about-us/our-work/>

See also

National Audit Office Programme and Areas for Consideration
proposes NAO's programme of work for the coming year and suggested areas for future consideration

<https://www.nao.org.uk/about-us/foi/publication-scheme/what-are-our-priorities-and-how-are-we-doing/>

Comment:

answer a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, an independent agency conducts and publishes a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis.

Source:

Transparency Report

September 2022

<https://www.nao.org.uk/about-us/governance/transparency/>

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/nao-transparency-report-2021-22.pdf>

Comment:

answer a

The NAO reports to the Comptroller and Auditor General, an officer of the House of Commons. The Comptroller and Auditor General reports to the Public Accounts Commission, a statutory body established under section 2 of the National Audit Act 1983.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/44/contents>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The transparency report noted in the comment is produced by the NAO about itself. But there is also an annual review conducted by an external body, the Financial Reporting Council, so the answer 'a' is correct: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/audit-quality-inspection-report-2021-22.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Frequently (i.e., five times or more).

Source:

The NAO supports the work of the Public Accounts Committees. The PAC takes evidence from senior officials of the organisations under scrutiny.
<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/207/public-accounts-commission>

Please see the 2021-2022 NAO Annual Report and Accounts (<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/National-Audit-Office-Annual-Report-and-Accounts-2021-22.pdf>). Per page 10, they supported 69 evidence sessions in FY 2021-22.

Annual Report and Accounts
REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL SESSION 2021-22
22 JUNE 2021
HC 296

See p. 9 of the Annual NAO report that confirms that staff participated in 63 evidence sessions, plus select committee sessions

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6360/documents/69817/default/>

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/?SearchTerm=national+audit+office&DateFrom=&DateTo=&SessionId=>

Comment:

answer a

Further information

The National Audit Office completed and published the following reports, utilised by the Public Accounts Committee

https://www.nao.org.uk/report_types/financial-audit/

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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.

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 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:

b. Yes, the executive uses open participation mechanisms through which members of the public provide their inputs on the budget.

Source:

Budget representations can be submitted to HM treasury to be considered in the decision-making processes leading to the presentation of the budget. Guidance for stakeholders and representative bodies is published on the Government portal <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spring-budget-2023-representations>
19 December 2022

HM Treasury encourage the use of its Budget submission portal: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/XA3W1G/>
Budget representations can also be made via email using public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk or by post

Comment:

Spending Reviews, Government's overarching spending plans, including departmental spending limits, are another opportunity for local authorities to submit written representations and evidence on local government finance.

17 November 2022 Autumn Statement, for example, provided an opportunity to review interim measures appropriate to circumstances <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-17/debates/97DB3122-0068-46CD-B026-F757C8DF39AF/AutumnStatement>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer b

However of interest may be the Financial Inclusion report which sets out progress in tackling financial exclusion and strategies for providing access across the board to affordable financial products and services.

19 December 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-inclusion-report-202122>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least three (but less than six) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

answer b

For example the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) publishes revised forecasts for the economy and public finances on the same day the budget is presented.

Other representative bodies such as the Women's Budget Group or the Institute for Government will comment on the budget and engage their networks in key topics, and while representations from all interest groups are open to the public, not only for budget consultations, but for other matters of government, the degree of public engagement in executive decisions is a different dynamic, especially on matters of government debt, forecasting and macroeconomic issues.

Local authorities, as mentioned, provide the space to discuss social issues, spending as it affects authorities' budgets and public services.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget implementation 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:

Suggest answer b as the mechanisms for public engagement are open to all. This does not mean some groups may not be called on to elaborate on their consultation documents but in theory, guidance and participatory mechanisms are available and published in due course on the government portal, with further recourse for engagement via local authorities.

For example,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spring-budget-2023-representations/guidance-for-submitting-spring-budget-2023-representations-to-the-treasury>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget implementation 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).

Comments: The consultation mechanisms referenced in the answer are focused on the preparation of the Budget rather than the implementation of a Budget. But since they do not preclude giving views on Budget implementation, and since the Treasury can be contacted on an ad hoc basis to provide views, answer 'c' seems the most appropriate.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

On the basis of the peer reviewer's comment, the response is revised from "b" to "c."

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:

Answer b

Participatory mechanisms, while universally available on the portal, do not translate into necessarily meeting the requirements for answer a.

Comment:

However please note spending reviews, as a result of participatory consultations, may result in ad hoc support packages as needed.

See, May 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-of-most-vulnerable-households-will-receive-1200-of-help-with-cost-of-living>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least three (but less than six) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

Answer b

as before, there is a difference between the overarching macroeconomic framework and debt policy and government engagement (not co-implementation) with the public. Public services, public investment projects and social spending are areas where there is room for dialogue and resolution

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 there 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:

a. Comprehensive information is provided in a timely manner prior to citizens engagement in both budget formulation and implementation phases.

Source:

Answer a

In addition to budget representations, spending reviews act as a revision mechanism to spending allocations. This would cover formation and implementation phases.

See Government consultation principles from 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance#full-publication-update-history>

Calls for consultations published on

<https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-the-status-of-tax-policy-consultations>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Answer a

Refer to Government guidance on tax policy consultations

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-the-status-of-tax-policy-consultations>

Also

<https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/consultation-paper/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Comments: There is a very clear process and written record attached to policy-specific consultations, as noted in the comments. But there is no comprehensive public record of budget representations received (the mechanism identified in Q125) or how they were used in the formulation of the budget. They are sometimes referenced selectively in Budget speeches.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

In light of the peer reviewer's comment, the response is revised from "a" to "d."

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:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the executive incorporates participation into its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal and the timetable is available to the public.

Source:

From 2017 on the Budget process

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-new-budget-timetable-and-the-tax-policy-making-process/the-new-budget-timetable-and-the-tax-policy-making-process>

Updates are made on different areas of the Government portal that better reflect the year's specific fiscal events, please refer to the Commons Library for the latest information.

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/what-is-the-budget/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government 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

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 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:

b. Yes, at least one line ministry uses open participation mechanisms through which members of the public provide their inputs on the budget.

Source:

Answer b on the basis of consultation mechanisms

Green Papers allow those inside and outside Parliament to give the department feedback on its policy or legislative proposals.

<https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/consultation-paper/>

White Papers or Command Papers are policy documents setting out proposal for future legislation, and may include draft version of planned Bills. White papers provide the basis for further consultation with interest groups and stakeholders, which may allow final revisions to be made before a Bill is formally presented to Parliament.

<https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/white-paper/>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Please see a list of the policy papers and consultations pertaining to the 2022 Autumn Statement here: [https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations?](https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations?content_store_document_type%5B%5D=open_consultations&content_store_document_type%5B%5D=closed_consultations&topical_events%5B%5D=autumn-statement-2022)

[content_store_document_type%5B%5D=open_consultations&content_store_document_type%5B%5D=closed_consultations&topical_events%5B%5D=autumn-statement-2022](https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations?content_store_document_type%5B%5D=open_consultations&content_store_document_type%5B%5D=closed_consultations&topical_events%5B%5D=autumn-statement-2022) The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities held consultations on the introduction of the 3-year Exchequer funded Transitional Relief scheme from 2023 to support ratepayers facing increases in their business rates bill due to the revaluation.

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:

Answer a

Departments and local authorities make provisions for their own consultation hubs or hearings

<https://consult.education.gov.uk>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-up-a-venue-for-a-public-inquiry-hearing-or-examination>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Ans

IBP Comment

The listed mechanisms are not maintained by the legislature or legislative committees; however, given that the oral evidence sessions on the Autumn 2022 Fiscal Events were open to the public and also broadcast, the response is revised from "b" to "c" to ensure the consistent application of survey methodology across countries.

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:

b. The legislature seeks input on at least three (but less than six) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

Answer b, as before

Refer to the work of the Treasury Committee

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6933/autumn-2022-fiscal-events/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Yes, the legislature provides a written record which includes either the list of the inputs received or a report or summary on how they were used.

Source:

Answer c

Reports, special reports and government responses

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/?SearchTerm=budget&DateFrom=&DateTo=&SessionId=>

No explicit reference made to how inputs were used during the deliberation process

See also

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6933/autumn-2022-fiscal-events/>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Comments: The TSC's reports do not include either the list of inputs received or a summary of how they are used, so answer 'd' appears more appropriate than 'c'.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment is well noted. Given that the TSC provides written transcripts of its oral evidence sessions, response "c" is maintained, per the guidelines for Q138: "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)"

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 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.

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:

b. Yes, public hearings on the Audit Report are held. No testimony from the public is provided during the hearings, but contributions from the public are received through other means.

Source:

Answer b

The Public Accounts Committee maintains a page to solicit relevant evidence from the public on the Whole of Government Accounts:
<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6679/whole-of-government-accounts/>

Public Accounts Committee
<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/127/public-accounts-committee/>

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/?SearchTerm=budget&DateFrom=&DateTo=&SessionId=>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, the SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in its audit program.

Source:

National Audit Office

On whistleblowing and public disclosure

<https://www.nao.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/whistleblowing/#the-comptroller-auditor-general-as-a-prescribed-person>

Comment:

Reports submitted through the whistleblowing form could turn into a formal investigation on the audit program, according to the NAO description of what happens to whistleblowing reports: <https://www.nao.org.uk/contact-us/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/04/Web-graphic.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, the SAI provides a written record which includes both the list of inputs received and a summary of the how the inputs were used to determine its audit program.

Source:

National Audit Office support for Parliament

<https://www.nao.org.uk/support-for-parliament/>

<https://www.nao.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/whistleblowing/#the-comptroller-auditor-general-as-a-prescribed-person>

Whistleblowing annual report 2021-22

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/nao-whistleblowing-annual-report-2021-22.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. Yes, SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations.

Source:

Answer a

National Audit Office

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Council-accounts-a-guide-to-your-rights.pdf>

In respect of local authorities, under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Sets out legal rights as a local resident or an interested person or journalist in respect of the accounts of local authorities and allows an interested party to inspect an authority's accounts and related documents. As a local government elector for the area to which the accounts relate the interested party can also:

- ask the auditor questions about the accounts; and
- object to them (this term is explained later in the guide).

Also refer to NAO protocol on whistleblowing, as before

<https://www.nao.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/whistleblowing/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: All 'work-in-progress' audits can be searched on the NAO's website: https://www.nao.org.uk/?s=&post_type=work_in_progress&topic=&department=&orderby=

The landing page for each audit gives the NAO team details. On some, the NAO enquiries email is given for those wishing to contribute to the audit. For others, it would be necessary to click through to the 'Contact Us' page to find out how to pass a message to the relevant NAO team.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also: their contact us page indicates different options for them to be contacted. Also specifically see current report here. which has details of how to submit evidence. <https://www.nao.org.uk/work-in-progress/adult-social-care-reform/>

IBP Comment

The additional context provided by the external reviewers is well noted.

