

# Response to HMRC consultation on proposals for sharing and publishing export data for public benefit

September 2014

GLA Economics welcomes this opportunity to express our views on the potential benefits, risks and safeguards needed in connection with the proposal to publish specific data items relating to exports. In particular it is our view that any change that allows more information on the exports of services would be particularly welcomed as the information on this area is very sparse. On the questions asked in the consultation document our responses are as follows:

## **1) What potential uses and benefits do you think would arise from publishing the proposed set of export data items?**

Although the proposal is to publish limited data on the exporters, the proposed data would still be of use in aiding regional export analysis for instance in equalising the information available on exporters and importers. Thus although the proposed data to be published is of limited scope, the proposal to publish exporters address, description of the goods and date of export would add to our knowledge of the regional economy. Further, if the published data provided any information on exports of services this would be of great use as the data in this area is extremely limited.

## **2) Do you think that the safeguards proposed are sufficient to mitigate any risks arising from publication?**

Given that similar importer data has been published for a number of years without incident then we feel the proposed safeguards are sufficient.

## **3) What, if any, additional impacts and risks do you think may arise and what further safeguards should be considered?**

We cannot think of any other safeguards to propose.

## **4) Do you agree with the core proposal (Option 1) to publish exporters name and address, the commodity code and description of the goods they export and month/year of export? Please give reasons for your answer.**

We do agree. GLA Economics would like to encourage the widest possible availability of publically collected data. Further any publication that increases the amount of regional economic data that is available is welcomed by us.

**5) What are your views on the proposal (option 2) to allow exceptions or opt-outs to publication?**

Rather than allowing exceptions or opt-outs in the way set out in the consultation document we would be more in favour of providing as much data as possible as part of option 1 – while meeting any necessary legislative/privacy requirements beholden on HMRC.