

Statistics on Public Sector Finances

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The Code of Practice covers a wide range of issues such as the quality of the statistics, their accessibility and the way that the producer body engages with users of the statistics. Capturing the views of users, and potential users, forms an important part of our judgment about the statistics, including how they could be improved. Feedback can be in any form, but it would be particularly helpful to us if you could structure your response around the following areas:

1. Which of these statistics do you use, and for what purposes? Please be as specific as possible. For example, if you use the statistics to provide briefing and further analysis to others, it would be helpful to know what the end use is.

We use a variety of statistics on an ad hoc basis.

2. Are the statistics of sufficient quality for your needs? How clear is the advice from ONS about the strengths and limitations of the statistics? What further information would you like?

With respect to the additional information that the Greater London Authority would find useful, a breakdown of the national data to the Government Office Regions would be helpful. In particular, a regional breakdown of current receipts displayed in tables PSA6B and PSA6C in the ONS Statistical Bulletin on [Public Sector Finances](#), that outline revenue and expenditure by source, would be useful. For example, a regular periodical on the regional breakdown of current levels of spending and receipts would provide a valuable input into the debate around devolution and regional policy-making. Following the Scottish referendum and the proposed increased powers to the Scottish government, arguably, there is a stronger need for regional current spending and receipts data. Regional data on the nature and level of spending/receipts would increase transparency and encourage robust evidence-based policy.

More detailed revenue information on taxes on production, income and wealth outlined in PSA6D would also be desirable. Similarly, information in PSA6E on central government expenditure by region would be useful for analytical purposes even if published once a year

3. Is the statistical commentary helpful to you? How could it be improved?

The commentary is generally okay, however an analysis of regional data would be useful.

¹ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/current-assessments/statistics-on-public-sector-finances.html>

4. How do you usually access the latest statistics, for example from the ONS website, through the media etc? How could access be improved?

Mainly through the ONS website, however an easier and more user friendly means of searching that website would be helpful.

5. If you have requested additional data or raised queries with ONS about these statistics, or if the statisticians have sought your views about any aspect of the statistics, please tell us how well ONS engaged with you.

N/A

6. These statistics have been previously assessed in 2011 in Assessment Report number 144. Have you noticed any improvements since then?

N/A