



# HM TREASURY

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24 February 2010

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Ref: 10/85-96

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: Country and Regional Analysis data

Dear Ms Evans

Thank you for your enquiries dated 27 January 2010 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. You asked for:

- the CRA data that was published in the years 1997 to 2008 (inclusive) in CSV format.

3. After receiving further clarification from you we are interpreting this as a request for the data underlying the published figures.

4. Since 2005 the Treasury has created a CRA database and published this on its website at the same time as (or shortly after) the publication of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses. These databases are provided alongside this reply in the requested CSV format.

5. We advise against splicing these databases together as they are not based on consistent definitions or methodologies, so may produce misleading results. In particular, from 2008 onwards the CRA used the United Nations functional classification (the Classification of the Functions of Government) whereas earlier exercises were based on the Treasury's own functional definitions.

6. You should also note that the 2007 and 2008 CRA exercises were based on aggregate data reported on the COINS database, whereas the 2005 and 2006 exercises used data recorded on a different system (which COINS replaced). There will be some different fields within the CRA data depending on the source database (sometimes even where the column headers are identical).

7. Prior to 2005 the Treasury did not compile and publish a database, and the information provided by departments has now been archived. The cost of locating and extracting this information (even for a single year) would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Treasury holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting that information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act departments are not obliged to comply with requests in these circumstances, and we are therefore unable to respond to the remainder of your request.



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8. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. It will be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Information Rights Unit  
HM Treasury

Enclosures: Four CSV files for Country and Regional Analysis for the years 2005-08

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Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.  
Email [FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk)

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.  
It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.