

# FOREWORD


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Efficient management of the Government's asset base is critical to the delivery and performance of public services. The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) will encourage greater exploitation of under-utilised assets and the disposal of assets no longer required for service delivery. This will build on the significant progress, of £12.2bn since 2004-05, already made towards the target of £30bn of asset disposals by 2010-11.

To strengthen the information base for investment decision-making in the CSR, this revised and updated edition of the National Asset Register highlights the commitment to transparency, accountability and good asset management. With information on over 370 different Government bodies, the 2007 National Asset Register is the most comprehensive list of central Government assets and maintains the UK's position at the forefront of international best practice in public sector asset management.

A decade on from its first publication, this edition of the National Asset Register includes three notable developments. Changing the threshold of itemised assets from £1,000 to £1 million allows the reader to focus on the important information by clearly pinpointing those assets of highest value. The inclusion of a detailed breakdown of acquisitions and disposals over the last five years improves transparency, details the evolution of the asset base and demonstrates progress against the Government's asset disposal strategy. Lastly, a new standardised format for each department helps the reader to locate a particular body or asset and to compare data across departments.

After a decade of substantial growth in public investment, the CSR will improve asset management practice within the public sector. The National Asset Register is a key tool in helping to achieve this. By providing a clear and comprehensive picture of the current asset base, it will encourage departments to make the best possible use of the assets they own and to make better informed decisions over future acquisitions and disposals, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the UK public sector.



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