

# INTRODUCTION

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## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE 2007 NATIONAL ASSET REGISTER?

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### Bodies covered by the National Asset Register

The National Asset Register (NAR) covers all central government departments together with their executive agencies (including trading funds). In addition, it includes information on executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), NHS bodies and public corporations. Bodies outside the public sector that are funded or sponsored by departments and NDPBs are not included.

Assets belonging to local authorities are not included in this document as their assets do not belong to central government. Local authorities are required in their annual accounts to disclose information on their assets. Copies of local authority annual accounts are available from the authorities themselves.

For reasons of national security no information is included on the assets owned by the Security and Intelligence Services.

The Register includes entries up to March 2005. Thus it does not take account of any subsequent machinery of Government changes, such as the creation of new departments. Transfers, acquisitions or disposals of assets resulting from these changes will be covered in the next edition of the Register.

### Assets covered by the National Asset Register

The NAR includes all tangible fixed assets (including military and heritage assets), intangible fixed assets (such as software licences) and fixed asset investments (such as share holdings) owned by departments. In deciding whether to include an asset, departments have followed normal accounting rules for the recognition of assets. All assets shown in the departmental entries are included in their balance sheets under resource accounting as long as they remain under departmental ownership.

The NAR covers only fixed assets. Therefore information on stocks and other current assets is not included.

## ACCOUNTING TREATMENT

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Values of all assets or groups of assets have been given throughout the Register in millions of pounds. They have all been valued using their net book value as at 31 March 2005, allowing a comparison to be drawn between the information in the NAR and that published in the Government Resource Accounts. Acquisitions and disposals of assets are valued using their net book value at the time of the acquisition or disposal.

The 2007 National Asset Register itemises only those assets worth more than £1 million. This increase in the threshold from £1,000 to £1 million allows the reader to focus on the important information by clearly pinpointing those assets of highest value and streamlines the reporting requirement on departments. Assets worth less than £1m have been aggregated into the different categories outlined in the Government Financial Reporting Manual.

### UNDERSTANDING THE FORMAT

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The National Asset Register comprises nineteen chapters. Each chapter refers to a departmental grouping and consists of a number of departments and sponsored bodies. A chapter contents page is provided at the front of the document and an index of all bodies included is provided at the end of the document.

For each body there is a standard format. The section begins with a short introduction to the main role and responsibilities of the entity, along with the relevant website address for further enquiries. Following this there are nine standard tables which give a detailed overview of the body or department's asset base.

#### **Table 1: Tangible Fixed Assets over £1m**

This table provides a detailed list of all tangible assets with a net book value over £1m. The name of the asset is provided along with a short description and the location of the asset if appropriate.

#### **Table 2: Summary of Tangible Fixed Assets**

This table provides an overview of tangible assets with a net book value less than £1 million along with a summary of the information provided in Table 1. A breakdown for both over and under £1 million is given by category.

#### **Table 3: Intangible Fixed Assets over £1m**

This table provides a detailed list of all owned intangible assets worth over £1m. The name of the asset is provided along with a short description and the location of the asset if appropriate.

#### **Table 4: Summary of Intangible Fixed Assets**

This table provides an overview of intangible assets with a net book value less than £1 million along with a summary of the information provided in Table 3. A breakdown for both over and under £1 million is given by category.

#### **Table 5: Summary of Fixed Asset Investments**

This table includes an overview of all fixed asset investments. A breakdown for both over and under £1 million is provided.

#### **Table 6: Total Fixed Assets**

This table summarises the information contained in the first five tables. It contains the totals for Tangible Fixed Assets, Intangible Fixed Assets and Fixed Asset Investments.

#### **Table 7: Fixed Asset Acquisitions**

Table 7 provides the data for all fixed asset acquisitions in each financial year between 2000 and 2005. The table is broken down into acquired assets worth more than £1m and acquired assets less than £1m. A short description is given for each acquired asset worth more than £1m whilst those worth less than £1 million are grouped by category.

#### **Table 8: Fixed Asset Disposals**

Table 8 provides the data for all fixed asset disposals in each financial year between 2000 and 2005. The table is broken down into disposed assets worth more than £1m and disposals worth less than £1m. A short description is given for each disposal worth more than £1m whilst those worth less than £1 million are grouped by category.

#### **Table 9: Total Fixed Asset Acquisitions and Disposals by Year**

Table 9 summarises the information in Tables 7 and 8. It displays the total acquisitions and disposals as well as the difference between these for each financial year between 2000 and 2005.

The health bodies are the only bodies that do not follow this format. This is because the number of health bodies is so large that it would not be practical to reproduce the nine tables for each. Instead, health bodies have been combined into a single table for each country and included under the relevant health department.

## OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ASSET REGISTER

The following table summarises each departmental grouping's total fixed asset holdings.

Department	Tangible Fixed Assets (£m)	Intangible Fixed Assets (£m)	Fixed Assets Investments (£m)	Total Asset Base (£m)
Attorney General	58.101	0.790	0.000	58.891
Cabinet Office	240.674	1.088	0.479	242.241
Chancellor of the Exchequer's Departments	1,457.231	38.503	1,640.223	3,135.957
Communities and Local Government	294.551	2.509	135.707	432.767
Constitutional Affairs	2,364.628	0.458	857.006	3,222.092
Culture, Media and Sport	4,179.496	21.357	219.319	4,420.172
Defence	70,384.913	22,647.823	351.767	93,384.503
Education and Skills	238.717	11.501	40.629	290.847
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	4,229.768	17.541	57.739	4,305.048
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,519.265	1.718	0.000	1,520.983
Health	39,737.294	370.104	111.654	40,219.052
Home Office	6,825.394	21.790	35.605	6,882.789
International Development	75.410	0.300	2,521.000	2,596.710
Northern Ireland	38,723.084	18.537	56.517	38,798.138
Scotland	20,842.600	37.200	2,118.500	22,998.300
Trade and Industry	10,163.912	893.981	8,097.074	19,154.967
Transport	80,664.255	360.670	0.000	81,024.925
Wales	11,990.914	1.066	1,611.785	13,603.765
Work and Pensions	786.185	25.788	0.000	811.973
<b>Total Asset Base</b>	<b>294,776.392</b>	<b>24,472.724</b>	<b>17,855.004</b>	<b>337,104.120</b>

### ENQUIRIES

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Specific enquiries about individual departmental entries should be made directly to the department concerned. Websites from which further information and copies of annual accounts can be obtained are given throughout the National Asset Register.

Any comments on the coverage or presentation of the National Asset Register should be sent to:

General Expenditure Policy Team  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ