

CHAPTER 12

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Departments included in this chapter:

I. Department of Social Security

I. Introduction

This register is intended to show the assets held by the Department of Social Security. It comprises a list of those assets which would be included in the fixed asset section of the consolidated departmental balance sheet as at 31 August 1997 if such a balance sheet were to be constructed at that date, along with the fixed assets held by the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority.

The bodies covered by this register are the core Department, its five Executive Agencies, the Independent Statutory Bodies which are sponsored by, and receive funding from, the Department and the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body). The Executive Agencies comprise the Benefits Agency, the Contributions Agency, the Child Support Agency, the War Pensions Agency, and the Information Technology Services Agency. The Independent Statutory Bodies comprise the Independent Tribunal Service, the Central Adjudication Service, the Independent Review Service and the Pensions Ombudsman. The Pensions Compensation Board, an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body, which publishes separate accounts is excluded from this register because it has no material assets. National Insurance Fund investments are also excluded.

The data in this register assist the Department to manage its resources efficiently and effectively. Where surplus assets are identified the Department seeks to dispose of them obtaining best value.

Structure and organisation

The Department consists of:

- a small central headquarters, which supports Ministers in developing and monitoring policy and in exercising corporate control over the Department's outputs and resources;
- five Next Steps Agencies, which are responsible for the Department's executive functions and services.

These units form a group of closely related businesses. They deliver inter-connected services whose extensive links require clearly defined lines of delegation and accountability. Briefly, the roles of these business units are:

- **Headquarters:** supports Ministers on both policy and legislation, and provides financial, legal, medical, statistical and analytical services to the Department as a whole.
- **The Benefits Agency:** assesses and delivers most Social Security benefits.
- **The Contributions Agency:** ensures compliance with the law on National Insurance contributions (also collected by the Inland Revenue), maintains contributors' National Insurance records (including personal pensions information) and provides National Insurance-related information and services, particularly to the Benefits Agency.
- **The Child Support Agency:** assesses, collects and arranges child support maintenance, ensuring that parents maintain their children wherever they can afford to do so.
- **The War Pensions Agency:** delivers benefits and other welfare services to war pensioners.

- **The Information Technology Services Agency:** provides, either from its own resources or through contracts with the private sector, the technological information services required to control the delivery of the social security programme.

The Department sponsors a number of Independent Statutory Bodies which are financed directly from the Department's Vote (these are formally classified as non-executive non-departmental public bodies. Their functions are outlined below.

- **The Independent Tribunal Service:** provides independent tribunals to hear and decide appeals against decisions made in connection with claims for social security benefits and on assessments of child support maintenance.
- **The Central Adjudication Service:** provides advice and guidance to adjudication officers in the Benefits Agency and Employment Service on how to deal with claims and appeals in connection with social security benefits. It also provides advice and guidance to child support officers in the Child Support Agency on how to deal with applications for maintenance assessments and related appeals. The Chief Adjudication Officer, who acts as the Chief Child Support Officer, monitors standards of adjudication in those Agencies and reports his findings annually to the Secretary of State.
- **The Independent Review Service for the Social Fund:** provides independent reviews of decisions made on applications for discretionary Social Fund payments. The Service is headed by the Social Fund Commissioner, who reports annually to the Secretary of State on the standards of reviews by Social Fund inspectors.
- **The Office of the Pensions' Ombudsman:** investigates and determines complaints of maladministration against occupational and personal pensions schemes, and disputes of fact and law arising in relation to such schemes.

Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies

- **The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority:** OPRA's primary role is to protect the interests of members of occupational pension schemes in cases where the operators of such schemes do not meet their legal obligations under the Pensions Act 1995 and associated regulations. The administration costs of the Authority are met by a levy on occupational pensions schemes.
- **The Pensions Compensation Board:** PCB's role is to decide, under the terms of the Pensions Act 1995, whether compensation is payable to members of occupational pension schemes and, if so, the amount which should be paid. The administration costs of the Board and the costs of the compensation scheme are met by a levy on occupational pensions schemes.

Further information on the structure and organisation of the Department can be obtained from the Social Security Departmental Report (Cm 3613). Further information on the Executive Agencies assets can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts of each of the individual Agencies.

Basis of compilation of the National Asset Register

This register has been compiled on the following basis:

Land and Buildings:

Only freehold and historic leaseholds are included. The Department is currently negotiating contracts for the disposal of the majority of the land and buildings included in this register to the private sector. It is likely that this sale will take place before the Department finalises its opening balance sheet next Spring.

Furniture and Fittings:

All parts of the Department own furniture and fittings but these are not included in this register as the individual items are not material.

Other Office Equipment:

Approximate numbers of PCs (including laptops) and printers are listed. There are also many items of supporting equipment not listed, which are generally arranged into a number of local area networks. Mainframe services are not included as these are provided by contractors. Other items of office equipment are not listed as the individual items are not material.

Motor Vehicles:

These are grouped by type of vehicle.

2. DEPARTMENTAL ASSET REGISTER

Headquarters

Computers

1,800 PCs

700 Printers

Benefits Agency

Land and Buildings

Freehold Offices Greater Than 10,000 Square Metres

Blackpool Norcross Lane

Blackpool Warbreck House

Cardiff Government Buildings

Glasgow Northgate

Leeds Lawnswood Government Buildings

Leeds Quarry House

Washington Emerson House

Freehold Offices Between 2,000 and 10,000 Square Metres

Aberdare Crown Building

Aberdeen Greyfriars House

Ashington Riverdale House

Ashton-U-Lyne Crown Buildings

Ayr Wallacetoun House

Banbury Southam Road

Barnet Raydean House

Bath Kingsmead House

Bathgate Whitburn Road

Bishop Auckland Vinovium House

Bootle Linacre House

Bradford Leeds Road

Bridgend Crown Buildings

Bristol Flowers Hill

Bromley Westmoreland Road

Burton-upon-Trent Crown Buildings

Caerphilly Crown Buildings

Canterbury Nutwood House
Chatham The Brook
Chelmsford Beeches Road
Clydebank Radnor House
Coatbridge South Circular Road
Coventry Cofa House
Derby Forester House
Derby St Andrews House
Edinburgh Haymarket House
Falkirk Heron House
Galashiels Market Street
Garston Cressington House
Glasgow Atlas Road
Glasgow Coustonholm Road
Glasgow Muslin Street
Grantham Crown House
Halifax Crossfield House
Hamilton Douglas Street
Hinchley Wood Kingston ByPass
Hyde Beech House
Isle of Wight Broadlands House
Kirkcaldy Victoria Road
London Balham Irene House
London Euston Square
Liverpool Kinglake House
Liverpool Webster House
Llanelli Crown Buildings
Manchester Albert Bridge House
Motherwell Flemington House
North Shields Unicorn House
Paisley Lonend
Preston Cop Lane
Rochdale Newgate House
Romford Crown House
Scunthorpe Crown Buildings
Shrewsbury Whitehall
Southend Victoria House
St Albans Beaver House

St Austell Carlyon House
Stanley Towneley House
Stirling St.Ninian's Road
Swindon Spring Gardens House
Wick Girnigoe Street
Wigan Griffin House
Worthing Crown Building

Freehold Offices Less Than 2,000 Square Metres

Abertillery Crown Buildings
Accrington Melbourne House
Arbroath Grant Road
Bargoed BO New Building High Street
Bellshill Hattonrigg Road
Benbecular Druim Na H'Airde
Berwick Northam House
Birmingham Poplar Road
Bognor Regis Gloucester House
Boston Crown Building
Braintree Panfield Lane
Bristol Monks Park Avenue
Campbeltown Hall Street
Cannock Beechcroft Road
Castleford Wheldon Road
Cheltenham Rivershill House
Chester Le Street Station Road
Chippenham St Pauls House
Chorley St Marys Walk
Colchester Crown Building
Cowdenbeath Factory Road
Crawley The Boulevard
Diss Dominion House
Dumfries Irish Street
Dumfries Tormore
Edinburgh High St-Portabello
Ellesmere Port Whitby Road
Falkirk Heron House

Folkestone Palting House
Frome Northover House
Glasgow Minerva Street
Glasgow Nitshill Road
Goole Burlington House
Great Yarmouth Yarmouth Way
Grimsby Cleethorpes Road
Gwyneddigion/Newtown Afon House
Harlow Beaufort House
Hartlepool Crown Building
Hartlepool Crown House Surtees Street
Havant Elmleigh Road
Hemel Hempstead Waterhouse Street
Hexham St Andres House
Houghton Le Spring Broadway House
Ilkeston Crown Buildings
Isles of Scilly Buzza Street
Largs Brisbane Road
London Hendon Finchley Lane
London Peckham Collyer Place
London Poplar Dod Street
Leek Broad Street
Leven Walton House
Lewes Medwyn House
Liverpool Springfield House
Liverpool Stopgate Lane
Llandeilo Bradford House
Llangefni Government Buildings
Maltby Morrell Street
Mexborough Crown Buildings
Morrison Oldway House
Neath Gnoll Park Road
Newcastle Saxon House
Newcastle Tyne View Park
Newton Stewart Victoria Street
Northallerton Elder House
Northwick Hartford House
Nottingham David Lane

Ormskirk Moorgate
Orpington
Pembroke Llanion Park
Penrith Voreda House
Penzance Branwell House
Peterhead Government Buildings
Peterlee Hatfield House
Plymouth Crownhill Court
Pontllanfraith Ennisclare
Poole Park Road
Port Glasgow Scarlow Street
Port Talbot Ynys Street
Redcar Dawson House
Redhill London Road
Rossendale Hurstdale House
Salisbury Crown Buildings
Selby Abbey House
Shipley Woolcombers Hall
Shotts Dyfrig Street
Skegness Government Buildings
Skipton Cavendish House
Smethwick Church Hill Street
Stanmore Honeypot Lane
Stevenage Danestrade
Stornoway Castle Street
Stranraer Ashwood Drive
Sutton-in-Ashfield Crown Buildings
Torquay Cotswold House
Trowbridge Homefield House
Tunbridge Wells Curtis House
Twickenham Crown Buildings
Uxbridge Colham House
Welling High Street
Whitehaven Mark House
Wrexham Hightown Barracks

Other Freeholds Greater Than 10,000 Square Metres

Manchester Heywood Stores

Other Freeholds Less Than 2,000 Square Metres

Dundee Magdalene Yard Road

Elgin Trinity Road

Guildford Chertsey Road

Hull Government Buildings

Ilford Cranbrook Road

Pontefract Newgate

St Helens Manor House

Historic Leasehold Offices Greater Than 10,000 Square Metres

Birmingham Five Ways House

Edinburgh Argyle House

London Acton Bromyard Avenue

Historic Leasehold Offices Between 2,000 and 10,000 Square Metres

Birmingham Ravenhurst

Bolton Elizabeth House

Brighton Windsor House

Bury St Edmunds St.Andrews House

Cardiff Heron House

Glasgow West Regent House

Grimsby Crown House

Kidderminster Crown House

London Bloomsbury Tavis House

London Greenwich Park Norman Road

Liverpool Bechers House

Liverpool Childwall Valley Road

Liverpool High Park House

Plymouth Durley House

Preston Albert Edward House

South Shields Wouldhave House

St Leonards on Sea Heron House

Wallasey Dominick House

Wembley Olympic House

Weymouth Westwey House

Historic Leasehold Offices Less Than 2,000 Square Metres

Aberystwyth Crown Buildings
Barnsley John Rideal House
Basingstoke Winchester Road
Bellshill Hattonrigg Road
Birmingham St Margarets Road
Bridlington Quay Road
Broadstairs St Peters Park Road
Chester Le Street Front Street
Clacton Station Road
Dartford Crown Buildings
Dewsbury Rishworth Road
Dover London Road
Ebbw Vale Civic Centre
Fareham Crown Office
Goldthorpe High Street/Lesley Road
Haywards Heath Oaklands
London Wandsworth Arndale Centre
Neath Percival House
Newbury Hillview House
Pontypridd Oldway House
Preston Diadem House
Southend Prittlewell Chase
Tonypandy Thistle House
Wigan Mesnes House
Workington Simon House

Other Historic Leaseholds Less Than 2,000 Square Metres

Bournemouth Garage
Northampton Gladstone Road E
Oxford Floyds Row

Computers

33,100 PCs

17,100 Printers

Vehicles

2,207 Cars

119 Vans

Contributions Agency**Land and Buildings**

Freehold Offices Greater Than 10,000 Square Metres

Newcastle Longbenton

Newcastle Ponteland Road

Freehold Offices Between 2,000 and 10,000 Square Metres

Gosforth Broadway West

Historic Leasehold Offices Less Than 2,000 Square Metres

London Stepney Scarborough Street

Computers

8,000 PCs

2,900 Printers

Vehicles

188 Cars

8 Vans

Child Support Agency**Land and Buildings**

Freehold Offices Greater Than 10,000 Square Metres

Hastings Ashdown House

Freehold Offices Between 2,000 and 10,000 Square Metres

Falkirk Antonine House

Falkirk Callendar Park

Other Freeholds Between 2,000 and 10,000 Square Metres

Clitheroe Primrose Mill

Computers

4,500 PCs

1,000 Printers

Vehicles

108 Cars

1 Van

War Pensions Agency**Land and Buildings**Freehold Home Between 2,000 and 10,000 Square Metres

Newton Abbott Ilford Park

Computers

800 PCs

500 Printers

Vehicles

25 Cars

1 Vans

Information Technology Services Agency

Land and Buildings

Freehold Offices Greater Than 10,000 Square Metres

Lytham Heyhouses Lane

Washington Durham House

Freehold Offices Less Than 2,000 Square Metres

Lytham Westgate House

Other Freeholds Greater Than 10,000 Square Metres

Livingston Buchanan House

Other Freeholds Between 2,000 and 10,000 Square Metres

Blackpool Clarke House

Blackpool Peel Park

Other Freeholds Less Than 2,000 Square Metres

Livingston Firth Road Store

Computers

10,000 PCs (including servers) *

1,700 Printers

* This includes some kit earmarked for transfer to other parts of the Department, some small systems used by the Employment Service and servers used by other parts of the Department as well as ITSA's own equipment.

Vehicles

173 Cars

4 Vans

3. NON-DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODIES

Independent Statutory Bodies

Land and Buildings

Freeholds Less Than 2,000 Square Metres

Inverness Bank Street

Mansfield Chaucer House

Historic Leaseholds Less Than 2,000 Square Metres

Church Street Grimsby

Exeter Melrose House

Computers

1,200 PCs

500 Printers

Vehicles

19 Cars

Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority

Computers

100 PCs