
Central Government Supply Estimates 2006–07

Main Supply Estimates

May 2006

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for the year ending 31 March 2007

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Section 1.

Introduction

1. Supply Estimates are the means by which the Government seeks authority from Parliament for its own spending each year. The Main Estimates start this process and are presented to Parliament at around the start of the financial year to which they relate. Detailed departmental Estimates are presented to Parliament by the Treasury and a Supplementary Budgetary Information publication is presented alongside the Main Estimates to provide read-across between the figures in Main Estimates and departmental reports.

2. The format of resource-based Supply Estimates is described in detail in **Section 2**; **Section 3** describes the way in which Parliament considers the Supply Estimates; **Section 4** summarises the important voted elements of the Estimate; and **Section 5** consists of the individual departmental Estimates themselves.

2006–07 Main Supply Estimates

3. The total resource expenditure for which authority is sought in the 2006–07 Main Estimates is £398.7 billion. This spending is consistent with the Government's plans for public expenditure as a whole, as set out in Public Expenditure: Statistical Analyses 2006 (Cm 6811). Further information is contained in the Departmental Reports. The introductory note to each Estimate contains cross-reference to the location of material in the reports.

4. The total forecast outturn for Supply expenditure in 2005–06 is £354.4 billion. Resources sought through Supply for 2006–07 are £44.4 billion higher than the forecast outturn for 2005–06.

Table 1 Summary of Supply provision sought, current year and comparison with previous years

	£ million		
	2006-07 Provision	2005-06 Forecast outturn	2004-05 Outturn
Gross resource	445,622	406,050	395,228
<i>Less</i> Operating appropriations in aid	-46,876	-51,691	-41,950
Net resource requirement	398,746	354,359	353,278
Capital	29,323	57,093	25,633
<i>Less</i> Non-operating appropriations in aid	-14,210	-41,802	-12,048
Accruals to cash adjustments	-40,678	-80,609	-37,128
Net cash requirement	373,181	289,041	329,735

5. Table 2 in Section 4 shows: the net resource requirement for each Request for Resources (RfR) and the net cash requirements sought for each Estimate in 2006–07; the total provision and forecast outturn for 2005–06; and the outturn for 2004–05.

6. The 2006–07 Main Estimates are presented in four volumes. This volume covers the main central government departments. Three separate booklets are being presented to Parliament by the House of Commons (HC 1037), the National Audit Office (HC 1038) and the Electoral Commission (HC 1039).

Data quality and consistency with other publications

7. The system used by central government departments and devolved administrations to report expenditure data is being replaced by a new system, the Combined Online Information System (COINS). Though departments have completed the process of migrating their data from the old public expenditure database (PES) to COINS we are currently in a transitional period where both databases are being maintained.

8. This publication has been produced using data held on the COINS database. The Supplementary Budgetary Information publication and the common core tables used in departmental reports have also been produced using the COINS database and will be entirely consistent with this document.

9. The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2006 (Cm 6811) publication, which is published at around the same time, has used data from the PES database. Although the two databases are being kept in close alignment there remain a number of possible factors (e.g. slight timing differences in entering data; small definitional differences in the reports; rounding conventions) that could lead to minor differences in numbers reported in PESA compared with publications using COINS data.

10. If any minor differences between the publications do arise then it is the Main Estimates that hold the definitive data for Supply purposes and PESA that holds the definitive budgetary data (DEL/AME and their constituent parts).