
Central Government Supply Estimates 2007–08

Main Supply Estimates

for the year ending 31 March 2008

*Presented by Command of Her Majesty
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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 individual departmental Estimates themselves.

2007–08 Main Supply Estimates

3. The total resource expenditure, for which authority is sought in the 2007-08 Main Estimates, is £429.9 billion. This spending is consistent with the Government's plans for public expenditure as a whole, as set out in Public Expenditure: Statistical Analyses 2007 (Cm 7079). 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, where relevant.

4. The total forecast outturn for Supply expenditure in 2006–07 is £405.2 billion. Resources sought through Supply for 2007–08 are £24.8 billion higher than the forecast outturn for 2006–07.

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

| | £ million | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| | 2007-08 Provision | 2006-07 Forecast outturn | 2005-06 Outturn |
| Gross resource | 481,010 | 455,742 | 436,801 |
| <i>Less</i> Operating appropriations in aid | -51,073 | -50,536 | -46,044 |
| Net resource requirement | 429,937 | 405,206 | 390,757 |
| Capital | 28,990 | 28,846 | 30,805 |
| <i>Less</i> Non-operating appropriations in aid | -12,365 | -15,249 | -16,983 |
| Accruals to cash adjustments | -52,571 | -44,327 | -50,657 |
| Net cash requirement | 393,991 | 374,476 | 353,922 |

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 2007–08; the total provision and forecast outturn for 2006–07; and the outturn for 2005–06.

6. The 2007–08 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 439), the National Audit Office (HC 440) and the Electoral Commission (HC 441).