

Section

Department of Social Security

Departments included in this chapter:

– Department of Social Security

Section 13 | Department of Social Security

The principal activities of the Department of Social Security are: to assess and deliver most social security benefits; to assess, collect and arrange child support maintenance; and to administer the War Pension Scheme and provide appropriate welfare support to war disablement pensioners and war widows.

This register is intended to show the assets held by the Department of Social Security. It comprises a list of those assets included in the fixed asset section of the Consolidated Departmental Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2000, together with the fixed assets held by the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA).

The bodies covered by this register are the core Department, its 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 Child Support Agency, the Information Technology Services Agency and the War Pensions Agency. The Independent Statutory Bodies comprise the Independent Tribunal Service (with effect from April 2000 – The Appeals Service), the Independent Review Service and the Office of 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.

The data in this register assists the Department in the efficient and effective management of its resources. Where surplus assets are identified the Department seeks to dispose of them obtaining best value.

Value of fixed assets and investments

The total value of fixed assets and investments held at 31 March 2000 is as follows:

	£'000s
Tangible Assets:	
Core Department	68,608
NDPB – OPRA	1,110
Intangible Assets	0
Investments Assets	0
Total Fixed Assets And Investments	69,718

Structure and Organisation

As at 31 March 2000, the core Department consists of:

- a central headquarters, which supports Ministers in developing and monitoring policy and legislation and in exercising corporate control over the Department's outputs and resources. It provides financial, legal, medical, statistical and analytical services to the Department as a whole.
- four Next Steps Agencies, which are responsible for the Departments' 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:

- **The Benefits Agency (BA)**: assesses and delivers most Social Security benefits.
- **The Child Support Agency (CSA)**: assesses, collects and arranges child support maintenance, ensuring that parents maintain their children wherever they can afford to do so.
- **The War Pensions Agency (WPA)**: delivers benefits and other welfare services to war pensioners.
- **The Information Technology Services Agency (ITSA)**: 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. From 1 April 2000, ITSA ceased to be an Executive Agency of the Department.
- **The Contributions Agency (CA)**: On 1 April 1999, the Contributions Agency transferred to the Inland Revenue. All fixed assets were included as part of the transfer.

Independent Statutory Bodies

The Department sponsors a number of Independent Statutory Bodies which are financed directly from the Department's Vote. Their functions are outlined below:

- **The Independent Tribunal Service (ITS)**: provides independent tribunals to hear and decide appeals against decisions made in connection with claims for social security benefits and on assessment of child support maintenance. With effect from 1 April 2000, this is known as The Appeals Service.
- **The Independent Review Service (IRS)**: 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 (OPO)**: investigates and determines complaints of maladministration against occupational and personal pensions schemes, and disputes of fact and law arising in relation to such schemes.
- **The Central Adjudication Service (CAS)**: The Central Adjudication Service ceased operations in November 1999 due to changes in the adjudication and appeals process within the Department. The residual assets of CAS were absorbed elsewhere in the Department.

Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies

- **The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA):** 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):** 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.

Basis of compilation of the National Asset Register

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets consist of those assets capitalised on the Balance Sheet analysed by appropriate asset categories as disclosed in the Accounts.

Land and Buildings

The Department does not include in its Balance Sheet capital values for the freehold and leasehold land and buildings, which it occupies under the Private Sector Resource Initiative for Management of the Estate (PRIME) and Newcastle Estates Development (NED) contracts.

Plant And Machinery

Furniture and fittings

As part of the PRIME contract, the majority of the furniture and fittings owned by the Department transferred to the contractor on 1 April 1998. The residual furniture and fittings are recorded on a pooled basis due to the low value of individual items.

Information and communication technology

Approximate numbers of PCs (including laptops), printers and servers 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.

Vehicles

These are grouped by type of motor vehicle – cars and vans.

Other

Items of office machinery are recorded on a pooled basis due to the low value of individual items.

Intangible Fixed Assets

There are no intangible fixed assets to be recorded in this register.

Fixed Asset Investments

There are no fixed asset investments to be recorded in this register.

Private Sector Resource Initiative for Management of the Estate (PRIME)

The PRIME contract was set up from 1 April 1998 and included all land and buildings (except those within the Newcastle Estates Development) where the DSS was the sole or major occupier. Under the terms of the contract, these were transferred to Trillium Group Limited. The Department received a cash consideration of £250 million in respect of the properties, additional consideration being received in the form of reductions in future rentals.

The Department also transferred the majority of furniture and fittings to the contractor. The total net book value of these items was £48.6 million.

Newcastle Estates Development (NED)

The NED project was set up for the redevelopment of the Newcastle Estate. Under the terms of the contract, land and buildings were transferred to Newcastle Estate Partnership in consideration for a reduction in future lease rentals payable. The deferred benefit of reduced future rentals was calculated to be £71 million based on a best estimate of the valuation of land and buildings by the Department.

Basis of Valuation of fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets employed by the Department have been valued on the same basis as that adopted for the annual accounts. The capitalisation limit was increased from £2,000 to £5,000 from 1 April 1999.

Further Information

Additional information can be obtained from the Departmental Resource Account, individual Agency Annual Reports and Accounts and the Departmental Report, or visit www.dss.gov.uk.

Plant and Machinery

Furniture And Fittings

The Department holds a residual volume of furniture and fittings, following the transfer of the majority of items to the PRIME contractor on 1 April 1998. These residual items of furniture and fittings are used by the Department in the course of delivering benefit payments and for the supporting corporate functions.

Information And Communication Technology

The Department uses Personal Computers, Printers, Servers and Telecommunication equipment in the delivery of its core business i.e. benefit payment and for the supporting corporate functions.

Motor Vehicles

Cars are purchased for business use only. The Department operates a Business User Car Scheme, as well as Pool Car Schemes at the major sites occupied by the Department. Vans are utilised by the messengerial staff for the transfer of postal and courier items between sites.

Other – Office Machinery

Items of office machinery are purchased by the Department to assist in the delivery of benefit payments and for the supporting corporate functions.

CORE DEPARTMENT

Items	No: of Units	Net Book Value at 31/3/2000 £'000s
Furniture And Fittings	59	5,400
ICT:	96,916	47,406
PCs (incl. laptops)	61,281	19,894
Printers	22,628	15,985
Servers	3,405	7,624
Telecoms/Other IT Equipment	9,602	3,903
Motor Vehicles:	2,506	5,992
Cars	2,495	5,950
Vans	11	42
Other – Office Machinery	2,269	9,810
Total Fixed Assets	101,750	68,608

HEADQUARTERS

Items	No: of Units	Net Book Value at 31/3/2000 £'000s
Furniture And Fittings	Pooled	43
ICT:	5,901	5,197
Motor Vehicles:	48	289
Cars	48	289
Other – Office Machinery	10	3
Total Fixed Assets	5,959	5,532

Contact details

General enquiries address:

Room 516,
Government Buildings,
Norcross Lane,
Blackpool. FY5 3TA.

Telephone number: 01253 – 333985

BENEFITS AGENCY

Items	No: of Units	Net Book Value at 31/3/2000 £'000s
Furniture And Fittings	Pooled	3,774
ICT:	77,109	22,775
PCs (incl. laptops)	46,232	3,314
Printers	21,275	15,558
Telecoms/Other IT Equipment	9,602	3,903
Motor Vehicles:	2,243	4,560
Cars	2,243	4,560
Other – Office Machinery	1,683	4,369
Total Fixed Assets	81,035	35,478

Contact details

General enquiries address:

Room 516,
Government Buildings,
Norcross Lane,
Blackpool. FY5 3TA.

Telephone number: 01253 – 333985

CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY

Items	No: of Units	Net Book Value at 31/3/2000 £'000s
Furniture And Fittings	Pooled	528
ICT:	N/K	6,243
Motor Vehicles:	N/K	201
Cars	N/K	201
Other – Office Machinery	N/K	1,387
Total Fixed Assets	N/K	8,359

Contact details

General enquiries address:

Room 516,
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Telephone number: 01253 – 333985

WAR PENSIONS AGENCY

Items	No: of Units	Net Book Value at 31/3/2000 £'000s
Furniture And Fittings	2	9
ICT:	2,877	1,643
PCs (incl. laptops)	2,251	1,516
Printers	626	127
Motor Vehicles:	27	79
Cars	26	72
Vans	1	7
Other – Office Machinery	15	13
Total Fixed Assets	2,921	1,744

Contact details

General enquiries address:

Room 6/329,
Government Buildings,
Norcross Lane,
Blackpool. FY5 3TA.

Telephone number: 01253 – 333750

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES AGENCY

Items	No: of Units	Net Book Value at 31/3/2000
		£'000s
Furniture And Fittings	Pooled	1,018
ICT:	8,309	9,702
PCs (incl. laptops)	4,634	1,919
Printers	273	176
Servers	3,402	7,607
Motor Vehicles:	162	795
Cars	156	769
Vans	6	26
Other – Office Machinery	537	3,857
Total Fixed Assets	9,008	15,372

Contact details

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Room 516,
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INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL SERVICE

Items	No: of Units	Net Book Value at 31/3/2000 £'000s
ICT:	2,338	1,676
PCs (incl. laptops)	1,951	1,579
Printers	387	97
Motor Vehicles:	26	68
Cars	22	59
Vans	4	9
Other – Office Machinery	20	176
Total Fixed Assets	2,384	1,920

Contact details

General enquiries address:

Room 505,
Government Buildings,
Norcross Lane,
Blackpool. FY5 3TA.

Telephone number: 01253 – 338552

INDEPENDENT REVIEW SERVICE

Items	No: of Units	Net Book Value at 31/3/2000 £'000s
Furniture And Fittings	4	2
ICT:	312	138
PCs (incl. laptops)	262	104
Printers	48	24
Servers	2	10
Other – Office Machinery	4	5
Total Fixed Assets	320	145

Contact details

General enquiries address:

Room 505,
Government Buildings,
Norcross Lane,
Blackpool. FY5 3TA.

Telephone number: 01253 – 338552

OFFICE OF THE PENSIONS OMBUDSMAN

Items	No: of Units	Net Book Value at 31/3/2000 £'000s
Furniture And Fittings	53	26
ICT:	70	32
PCs (incl. laptops)	50	22
Printers	19	3
Servers	1	7
Total Fixed Assets	123	58

Contact details

General enquiries address:

Room 505,
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Blackpool. FY5 3TA.

Telephone number: 01253 – 338552

Information On NDPBs

OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA) is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body, which publishes separate accounts from those of the core Department.

OPRA was set up by Parliament to help make sure that occupational pension schemes are safe and well run. Their role is: to investigate matters reported to them and take appropriate action; to check that occupational pension schemes are complying with the law; to help people trace pension schemes; to collect levies which pay for pension protection; and to educate and inform and work with others to raise standards.

Item	Net Book Value at 31 March 2000 £'000s
Leasehold Improvements	675
Furniture and Equipment	293
Computer Hardware	142
Total Fixed Assets	1,110

OPRA does not own any of the leasehold premises, or related land, which it occupies. Capital expenditure on leasehold improvements relates to additional office space.

Further details can be found in the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority Accounts 1999-2000.

Contact details

General enquiries address:

Invicta House,
Trafalgar Place,
Brighton,
East Sussex. BN1 4DW.

Telephone number: 01273 – 627617

Changes since the last National Asset Register

Acquisitions

Detailed below are volumes (where available) and values of acquisitions made by the core Department in each of the years from 1997-98 to 1999-00, together with a total of acquisitions, for each asset category / type. There were no items acquired for £1 million or more during this period.

CORE DEPARTMENT

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings	3	4,897	5	935	2	1,239	10	7,071
ICT:	2,350	21,643	4,767	28,594	3,395	25,300	10,512	75,537
PCs (incl. laptops)	1,872	15,375	3,664	20,746	2,945	19,349	8,481	55,470
Printers	75	222	63	134	234	249	372	605
Servers	403	5,062	1,040	7,271	216	1,341	1,659	13,674
Telecoms/Other IT Equip.	N/A	984	N/A	443	N/A	4,361	N/A	5,788
Vehicles:	72	967	85	979	43	3,440	200	5,386
Cars	70	955	85	979	43	3,440	198	5,374
Vans	2	12					2	12
Other: Office Machinery	17	1,057	23	1,023	3	2,045	43	4,125
Total Acquisitions	2,442	28,564	4,880	31,531	3,443	32,024	10,765	92,119

HEADQUARTERS

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
ICT: (grouped)	648	5,203	1,412	2,697	1,064	2,239	3,124	10,139
Vehicles:	19	208	12	131	10	384	41	723
Cars	19	208	12	131	10	384	41	723
Other: Office Machinery					1	5	1	5
Total Acquisitions	667	5,411	1,424	2,828	1,075	2,628	3,166	10,867

BENEFITS AGENCY

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings	N/A	2,847	N/A	651	N/A	1,060	N/A	4,558
ICT: (grouped)	N/A	8,158	N/A	12,592	N/A	11,355	N/A	32,105
Vehicles:					N/A	2,671	N/A	2,671
Cars					N/A	2,671	N/A	2,671
Other: Office Machinery	N/A	799	N/A	628	N/A	1,989	N/A	3,416
Total Acquisitions	N/A	11,804	N/A	13,871	N/A	17,075	N/A	42,750

CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings	N/A	211	N/A	21	N/A	153	N/A	385
ICT: (grouped)	N/A	450	N/A	2,981	N/A	3,538	N/A	6,969
Vehicles:	N/A	189					N/A	189
Cars	N/A	189					N/A	189
Other: Office Machinery	N/A	79	N/A	167	N/A	20	N/A	266
Total Acquisitions	N/A	929	N/A	3,169	N/A	3,711	N/A	7,809

WAR PENSIONS AGENCY

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings	2	10	3	2			5	12
ICT:	88	120	644	703	918	1,059	1,650	1,882
PCs (incl. laptops)	70	105	638	700	708	940	1,416	1,745
Printers	18	15	6	3	210	119	234	137
Vehicles:	4	34	2	33	10	114	16	181
Cars	4	34	2	33	10	114	16	181
Other: Office Machinery	2	0	2	8	2	3	6	11
Total Acquisitions	96	164	651	746	930	1,176	1,677	2,086

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES AGENCY

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings	N/A	1,829	N/A	255	N/A	18	N/A	2,102
ICT:	1,476	7,586	2,547	9,238	399	6,060	4,422	22,884
PCs (incl. laptops)	1,021	1,348	1,478	1,433	173	239	2,672	3,020
Printers	53	203	30	97	10	119	93	419
Servers	402	5,051	1,039	7,265	216	1,341	1,657	13,657
Telecoms/Other IT Equip.	N/A	984	N/A	443	N/A	4,361	N/A	5,788
Vehicles:	42	498	70	808	20	240	132	1,546
Cars	40	486	70	808	20	240	130	1,534
Vans	2	12					2	12
Other: Office Machinery	15	179	17	218	0	28	32	425
Total Acquisitions	1,533	10,092	2,634	10,519	419	6,346	4,586	26,957

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL SERVICE

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
ICT:	32	35	140	355	966	1,012	1,138	1,402
PCs (incl. laptops)	32	35	132	339	960	1,010	1,124	1,384
Printers			8	16	6	2	14	18
Vehicles:	7	38	1	7	3	31	11	76
Cars	7	38	1	7	3	31	11	76
Total Acquisitions	39	73	141	362	969	1,043	1,149	1,478

INDEPENDENT REVIEW SERVICE

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings	1	0					1	0
ICT:	71	56	18	26	45	32	134	114
PCs (incl. laptops)	70	55	1	3	37	23	108	81
Printers	1	1	16	17	8	9	25	27
Servers			1	6			1	6
Other: Office Machinery			4	2			4	2
Total Acquisitions	72	56	22	28	45	32	139	116

CENTRAL ADJUDICATION SERVICE

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
ICT:	3	2					3	2
PCs (incl. laptops)	1	0					1	0
Printers	2	2					2	2
Total Acquisitions	3	2					3	2

OFFICE OF THE PENSIONS OMBUDSMAN

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings			2	6	2	8	4	14
ICT:	32	33	6	2	3	5	41	40
PCs (incl. laptops)	30	21	3	1	3	5	36	27
Printers	1	1	3	1			4	2
Servers	1	11					1	11
Total Acquisitions	32	33	8	8	5	13	45	54

Disposals

Detailed below are volumes (where available) and values of disposals made in each of the financial years from 1997-98 to 1999-00. There were no individual items sold for £100,000 or more during this period.

CORE DEPARTMENT

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings	1	60	N/A	54,697	8	11	9	54,768
ICT:	1,494	1,592	4,395	1,300	4,432	962	10,321	3,854
PCs (incl. laptops)	1,218	1,546	2,158	1,146	4,163	900	7,539	3,592
Printers	66	26	394	5	154	62	614	93
Servers	210	20	1,843	149	115	0	2,168	169
Vehicles:	57	560	67	307	40	232	164	1,099
Cars	57	560	67	307	36	232	160	1,099
Vans					4	0	4	0
Other: Office Machinery	31	150	13	352	142	401	186	903
Total Disposals	1,583	2,362	4,475	56,656	4,622	1,606	10,680	60,624

HEADQUARTERS

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings			N/A	2,436			N/A	2,436
ICT:	2	1	1,474	709	66	6	1,542	716
PCs (incl. laptops)	2	1	1,474	709	66	6	1,542	716
Vehicles:					5	0	5	0
Cars					5	0	5	0
Total Disposals	2	1	1,474	3,145	71	6	1,547	3,152

BENEFITS AGENCY

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings	N/A	58	N/A	36,438	N/A	8	N/A	36,504
ICT:	N/A	941	N/A	336	N/A	315	N/A	1,592
PCs (incl. laptops)	N/A	941	N/A	336	N/A	315	N/A	1,592
Vehicles:	N/A	408	N/A	188	N/A	125	N/A	721
Cars	N/A	408	N/A	188	N/A	125	N/A	721
Other: Office Machinery	N/A	145	N/A	351	N/A	256	N/A	752
Total Disposals	N/A	1,552	N/A	37,313	N/A	704	N/A	39,569

CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings			N/A	6,514			N/A	6,514
ICT:	N/A	4	N/A	2	N/A	24	N/A	30
PCs (incl. laptops)	N/A	4	N/A	2	N/A	24	N/A	30
Vehicles:	N/A	25			N/A	5	N/A	30
Cars	N/A	25			N/A	5	N/A	30
Other: Office Machinery	N/A	3					N/A	3
Total Disposals	N/A	32	N/A	6,516	N/A	29	N/A	6,577

WAR PENSIONS AGENCY

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings	1	2	N/A	1,771	1	1	2	1,774
ICT:	30	4	5	0	811	49	846	53
PCs (incl. laptops)	25	4	4	0	762	48	791	52
Printers	5	0	1	0	49	1	55	1
Vehicles:	9	6	3	0	9	23	21	29
Cars	9	6	3	0	9	23	21	29
Other: Office Machinery	1	0	2	0	1	2	4	2
Total Disposals	41	12	10	1,771	822	75	873	1,858

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES AGENCY

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings			N/A	5,671	N/A	2	N/A	5,673
ICT:	1,460	642	2,866	249	3,287	527	7,613	1,418
PCs (incl. laptops)	1,191	596	679	98	3,114	467	4,984	1,161
Printers	59	26	344	2	58	60	461	88
Servers	210	20	1,843	149	115	0	2,168	169
Vehicles:	46	120	62	119	18	79	126	318
Cars	46	120	62	119	18	79	126	318
Other: Office Machinery	30	2	11	1	16	4	57	7
Total Disposals	1,536	764	2,939	6,040	3,321	612	7,796	7,416

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL SERVICE

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings			N/A	1,724			N/A	1,724
ICT:	2	0	50	4	176	24	228	28
PCs (incl. laptops)			1	1	176	24	177	25
Printers	2	0	49	3			51	3
Vehicles:	2	1	2	0	8	0	12	1
Cars	2	1	2	0	4	0	8	1
Vans					4	0	4	0
Other: Office Machinery					125	139	125	139
Total Disposals	4	1	52	1,728	309	163	365	1,892

INDEPENDENT REVIEW SERVICE

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings			N/A	71			N/A	71
ICT:					38	13	38	13
PCs (incl. laptops)					22	12	22	12
Printers					16	1	16	1
Total Disposals			N/A	71	38	13	38	84

CENTRAL ADJUDICATION SERVICE

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings			N/A	72			N/A	72
ICT:					53	2	53	2
PCs (incl. laptops)					22	2	22	2
Printers					31	0	31	0
Total Disposals			N/A	72	53	2	53	74

OFFICE OF THE PENSIONS OMBUDSMAN

Item	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000		Total	
	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000	No:	£'000
Furniture & Fittings					7	0	7	0
ICT:			9	0	1	2	10	2
PCs (incl. laptops)			9	0	1	2	10	2
Total Disposals			9	0	8	2	17	2

Disposals made in 2000-01 to date

Listed below are details of items sold in 2000-01 to date.

CORE DEPARTMENT

Item	No: of Units	Value at Disposal £'000s
Furniture And Fittings	N/A	4
ICT:	4,084	369
PCs (incl. laptop)	3,622	269
Printers	302	8
Servers	160	17
Telecoms/Other IT Equipment	N/A	75
Vehicles:	79	36
Cars	79	36
Other: Office Machinery	21	486
Total Disposals 2000-01 to date	4,184	895

BENEFITS AGENCY

Item	No: of Units	Value at Disposal £'000s
ICT:	N/A	180
PCs (incl. laptop)	N/A	180
Vehicles:	N/A	1
Cars	N/A	1
Other: Office Machinery	N/A	45
Total Disposals 2000-01 to date	N/A	226

CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY

Item	No: of Units	Value at Disposal £'000s
Other: Office Machinery	N/A	432
Total Disposals 2000-01 to date	N/A	432

WAR PENSIONS AGENCY

Item	No: of Units	Value at Disposal £'000s
ICT:	47	17
PCs (incl. laptop)	38	14
Printers	9	3
Vehicles:	6	6
Cars	6	6
Total Disposals 2000-01 to date	53	23

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES AGENCY

Item	No: of Units	Value at Disposal £'000s
Furniture And Fittings	N/A	4
ICT:	3,947	172
PCs (incl. laptop)	3,584	75
Printers	203	5
Servers	160	17
Telecoms/Other IT Equipment	N/A	75
Vehicles:	73	29
Cars	73	29
Other: Office Machinery	21	9
Total Disposals 2000-01 to date	4,041	214

Departmental future disposals strategy

DSS Business Units are accountable for disposing of those assets for which they are still accountable. This excludes buildings and most furniture and much of the IT, as these are provided on an outsourced basis. Vehicles are accountable assets but they are provided centrally as a resource by DSS Business Travel Services, who have an agreed disposal policy based upon mileage/age for each type of vehicle. IT equipment is often disposed of under contract with suppliers and the proceeds are usually negligible due to rapid technological obsolescence.

It is the Department's policy to ensure that the best use and value is sought in the management and disposal of fixed assets. The importance of constant review and clearance of surplus/broken assets is stressed to all Business Units within the Department.

Departmental Investment Strategy

Further information on future investment plans, asset management and utilisation can be obtained from the DSS Departmental Investment Strategy. This document can be found on the DSS website at the following address: www.dss.gov.uk/publications/dss/2000/dis/index.htm