



HM TREASURY

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

9 March 2010

Lisa Evans

Information Rights Unit

Request-28622-cc4eabdc@whatdotheyknow.com

Tel: 0207 270 4558

Fax: 0207 270 4861

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk
FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Ref: IRU 10/122

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: Request for COINS field descriptions and how much data held against each field

Dear Ms Evans

Thank you for your enquiry dated 9 February 2010 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. You asked for –

- *A description of the fields in COINS and if that field has data in it and how much data it has – measured in the number of database entries.*

3. Information defining the “fields” in COINS is not contained in a single document. Also, we do not have existing reports or scripts available that will identify which “fields” have ‘data in it and how much data it has’. We estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit, which has been specified in regulations for central government and set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Treasury holds the information and locating and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Act, departments are not obliged to comply with requests in these circumstances if the appropriate limit is exceeded.

4. We are also of the opinion that even if you were to narrow your request by specifying particular “fields” from the information you have access to, it is likely that we would still not be able to comply with a new request, as the effort needed, and hence the cost, to write, test and run reports or scripts to identify the information sought would probably be of the same order, or possibly even higher, as that which we would incur for this request.

5. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. It will be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Information Rights Unit



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

