



United Kingdom
Debt Management
Office

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Sent by email to: request-282511-65f4d5bc@whatdotheyknow.com

5 August 2015

Dear Mr Wiseman,

Response to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request: FOI20150727

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2015, received by us on 27 July 2015. You have requested the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Could you please provide me with a list of the national debt in every year since 1690 up to the present time?

The UK Debt Management Office's (DMO's) response is as follows:

The DMO does not hold information on the totality of the UK national debt. The DMO is responsible for the management of marketable UK Government debt, comprising Government bonds, known as gilts, which have maturities currently going out to July 2068, and Treasury bills, which are shorter-dated (6-months or less) instruments. As at the date of your request, 27 July 2015, the net nominal value of the marketable debt portfolio, including the inflation uplift on index-linked gilts, was £1,410.66bn. ('Net', in this context, means excluding debt held by the DMO.) The net market value of the marketable debt portfolio was £1,712.04bn, and the value of Treasury bills outstanding as at that date was £68.02bn.

The DMO publishes data on the nominal and market value of the marketable government debt portfolio in its Quarterly Reviews. A link to the most recent publication is below:

http://www.dmo.gov.uk/documentview.aspx?docname=publications/quarterly/jan-mar15.pdf&page=Quarterly_Review

For data on public sector debt more widely, we suggest that you consult the Office for National Statistics (ONS) monthly publication, Public Sector Finances, which includes statistics on UK public finances, including measures of public debt:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-finances-bulletin>

It may also be helpful for you to consult the following ONS document: 'Government and public sector debt management measures', which provides information on the different measures used in relation to levels of public sector debt, including the term 'national debt':

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/economy/public-sector-finances/government-and-public-sector-debt-measures.pdf

In addition, ONS data on public sector net debt from 1974 onwards can be downloaded from the Office for Budget Responsibility website at:

http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/pubs/PSF_aggregates_databank_Summer-Budget-2015.xls

Yours sincerely

Records and Information Management Team

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E RecordsManagementService@dmo.gsi.gov.uk

Your Rights to Complain under the FOI Act

If you are not content with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write within two months of the date of this letter to the Records Management Service, UK Debt Management Office, Eastcheap Court, 11 Philpot Lane, London EC3M 8UD.

email - recordsmanagementservice@dmo.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of 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 DMO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.