



HM TREASURY<sup>2</sup>

1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

21st September 2011

Information Rights Unit

K Dudakia

[request-84254-bbd2fb0d@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-84254-bbd2fb0d@whatdotheyknow.com)

Tel: 0207 270 4558

Fax: 0207 270 4861

[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

[FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk)

Ref: 11/727

Dear Sir,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA): National Reserves**

Thank you for your enquiry dated 27th August 2011. I am treating your enquiry as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am interpreting your request for information relating to the national reserves as referring to the United Kingdom's Official Reserves.

2. You asked for information covering:

- data relating to the national reserves since 1945, by each and every year, to date.

3. I can advise that some of this information engages section 21 of the FOIA: information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The Bank of England publishes annual time series data from end-Dec 1970 on the UK's Official Reserves. This data is available from the Bank of England's interactive database at:

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/mfsd/iadb/NewInterMed.asp?Travel=NlxSSxSCxSUx>

Using the code 'BAAG' in the search engine will take you to tables which shows annual (financial year) amounts outstanding of Central Government sterling and all foreign currency official reserves total (in sterling millions). More recent historical data from end-July 1999 to August 2011 is available at:

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/reserves>

To be helpful I have attached a version for this series at Annex A.

4. I can also advise that we do not hold information on the UK's official reserves prior to 1970. As a general rule, government departments send those records that have been selected for permanent preservation to The National Archives when they are 30 years old. The address of their web-site and details of how to search their catalogue may be found at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

5. If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. It will help us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

IRU.

Information Rights Unit  
HM Treasury

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](mailto: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.

## Annex A - Bank of England Series 1 to 3

	Monthly amounts outstanding of Central Government all foreign currency total reserve assets (in US dollar millions) not seasonally adjusted <b>PQ MBAAG</b>	Quarterly amounts outstanding of Central Government all foreign currency total reserve assets (in US dollar millions) not seasonally adjusted <b>PQQB AAG</b>	Annual amounts outstanding of Central Government all foreign currency total reserve assets (in US dollar millions) not seasonally adjusted <b>PQABAAG</b>
	[a]		
31-Dec-70	n/a	n/a	2827
31-Dec-71	n/a	n/a	6582
31-Dec-72	n/a	n/a	5646
31-Dec-73	n/a	n/a	6476
31-Dec-74	n/a	n/a	6789
31-Dec-75	n/a	n/a	5429
31-Dec-76	n/a	n/a	4129
31-Dec-77	n/a	n/a	20557
31-Dec-78	n/a	n/a	15694
31-Dec-79	n/a	n/a	22538
31-Dec-80	n/a	n/a	27476
31-Dec-81	n/a	n/a	23347
31-Dec-82	n/a	n/a	16997
31-Dec-83	n/a	n/a	17817
31-Dec-84	n/a	n/a	15694
31-Dec-85	n/a	n/a	15543
31-Dec-86	n/a	n/a	21923
31-Dec-87	n/a	n/a	44326
31-Dec-88	n/a	n/a	51685
31-Dec-89	n/a	n/a	38645
31-Dec-90	n/a	n/a	38464
31-Dec-91	n/a	n/a	44126
31-Dec-92	n/a	n/a	41654
31-Dec-93	n/a	n/a	42926
31-Dec-94	n/a	n/a	43898
31-Dec-95	n/a	n/a	46986
31-Dec-96	46300	n/a	46300
31-Dec-97	38418	n/a	38418
31-Dec-98	35449	n/a	35449
31-Dec-99	41824	41824	41824
31-Dec-00	48179	48179	48179



31-Dec-01	40444	40444	40427
31-Dec-02	42805	42805	42758
31-Dec-03	46060	46060	n/a
31-Dec-04	49740	49740	n/a
31-Dec-05	48096	48096	n/a
31-Dec-06	53214	53214	n/a
31-Dec-07	57178	57178	n/a
31-Dec-08	48974	48974	n/a
31-Dec-09	64138	64138	n/a
31-Dec-10	77869	77869	n/a
31-Jan-11	82127	n/a	n/a
28-Feb-11	85423	n/a	n/a
31-Mar-11	85729	85729	n/a
30-Apr-11	90735	n/a	n/a
31-May-11	91096	n/a	n/a
30-Jun-11	90783	90783	n/a
31-Jul-11	94240	n/a	n/a

**Notes:**

[a] As a result of recent quality assurance, the valuation of SDR-related assets and liabilities has been found to be incorrect. This issue relates to data from January 2001 to July 2004 inclusive and back data for this period have now been revised. (31 Jan 2001 - 31 Jul 2004)