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25 January 2010

Lisa Evans

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Ref: IRU 9/1049

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: SCHEMA FOR COINS DATABASE

Dear Ms Evans

Thank you for your enquiry dated 23 December 2009 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. You asked for –

a copy the schema for the COINS database, as it currently exists, to be supplied in an Excel spreadsheet.

3. The COINS database is a multi-dimensional database, rather than a relational database and we do not hold a schema. To be helpful, we are providing a spreadsheet summarising the 'field' details in each of the dimensions in the database, which reflects the structure at 11 January 2010, and we hope that will serve your purposes.

4. A limited amount of information has been replaced because of Intellectual Property Rights issues: specifically, "Code", "Description" and "Data Entry" are substitute 'field names'.

5. The information is presented in eight worksheets in the Excel file, with each worksheet tab showing the name of the specific dimension. The information within each worksheet is presented in columns, with specific information for a 'field' shown in the column under the relevant 'field name', which are shown in bold in row 1 in each worksheet. The information below provides a brief outline of the purpose of each dimension which may be helpful to you:

- **VERSION:** used to list details of different data streams, 'snapshots', and so on;
- **ORGANISATION:** used to record details of organisations;
- **VARIABLES:** lists the Standard Chart of Accounts, with associated 'tags' (or 'fields') used to specify budgetary treatment, nature of expenditure, and so on;
- **REPORTING:** groups 'adjustment types', by status levels and data streams for reporting purposes;
- **TIME:** Lists the time frames for data - years, and months within year, and identifies the current 'focal years' for each data stream;
- **CPID:** Counter party identifiers, another list of organisations;
- **SEGMENT:** contains Programme Objects (PO) and other 'structural' type information to identify budget treatment and so on;



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- **ANALYSIS:** essentially a "spare" dimension.

6. 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.



Paul Morran
Information Rights Unit

Enclosures: Excel file- 100111 COINS Schema for FOI 9 1049.xls

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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.

