



Sent by email to request-224893-1fe94ee0@whatdotheyknow.com

9 September 2014

Dear Mr Tumulty,

Response to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request: FOI 20140813

Thank you for your email of 13 August 2014. You have requested the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- **What is the total debt of the UK on today's date**
- **If there is a list of creditors who the UK owe money to them please provide me with that list and current amount outstanding**

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

With regard to your first question, 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 much shorter-dated (6-months or less) instruments. As at the date of your request, 13 August 2014, the net nominal value of the marketable debt portfolio, including the inflation uplift on index-linked gilts, was £1,345.69bn. ('Net', in this context, means excluding debt held by the DMO.) The net market value of the marketable debt portfolio was £1,544.95bn, and the value of Treasury bills outstanding as at that date was £46.5bn.

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-mar14.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 this 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

With regard to your second question, we do not hold the information requested. The gilts registrar, currently Computershare Investor Services plc, is responsible for maintaining, on behalf of HM Treasury, the legal register of holdings of gilts. The DMO manages HM Treasury's contract with Computershare, but does not itself hold the information contained in the gilts register. Data on holdings by individuals would in any event be subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

The DMO does, however, publish in its Quarterly Reviews a table showing the main sectoral holders of gilts which is compiled using data published by the Office for National Statistics. The most recent data in market value terms are shown below:

Distribution of gilt holdings (net) as at 31 March 2014

(£millions)	End Q4 2013	End Q1 2014
Overseas	413,104	409,997
Bank of England (Asset Purchase Facility)	367,486	370,861
Insurance companies and pension funds	365,149	372,705
Monetary Financial Institutions	133,349	132,865
Other financial institutions and other	89,787	100,134
Households	12,066	15,355
Local authorities and public corporations	2,155	1,855
TOTAL	1,383,096	1,403,772

Yours sincerely

Records and Information Management Team

D 020 7862 6528

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.