

BERR Annual Report on Survey Activity: 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008

Summary

1. Compliance costs are an estimate, in monetary terms, of the time taken by businesses and local authorities to complete a survey. They are estimated using the time taken to complete a survey multiplied by an hourly rate of pay dependent on the experience of the person completing the survey. Hourly rates of pay are provided each year by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
2. Increased awareness of survey control procedures in recent years may have resulted in more complete coverage of projected departmental survey activity and therefore fewer large differences between the actual and the forecasted activity.
3. Surveys are a key instrument for evidence-based policy. The survey control unit provides statistical advice and support to survey sponsors to help them improve or maintain the quality of the evidence base provided by surveys whilst keeping the burden to the business and Local Authority communities to a minimum. There is also a BERR survey control plan in place that aims to increase awareness of survey control and reduce the compliance burden. For the year 2007/08:
 - The actual compliance cost is £9,147,651 just under the projected compliance cost for the year by 6% (or £620,983).
 - Since 2006/07 compliance has gone up by less than 1% (or £27,190) from £9,120,461 to £9,147,651.
 - There has been a decrease in the number of surveys recorded from 77 in 2006/07 to 73 in 2007/08.
 - There has also been an increase of just under 32,000 in the number of businesses contacted in 2007/08 compared with 2006/07.
 - Costs to BERR have fallen from £2.5m in 2006/07 to £2.2m in 2007/08.

Appendix A gives details of all surveys carried out and comparisons with estimates.

Regular Surveys

4. 49 regular surveys were notified compared with 51 last year. For regular surveys in 2007/08:
 - Compliance costs are £8.6m; this figure has decreased slightly from £8.9m in 2006/07;
 - The number of businesses contacted is 392,826 slightly lower from 2006/07 when 413,965 businesses were contacted.
 - Costs to BERR are £1.9m similar figure to 2006/07 of £2.1m;

5. Under the Survey Control Procedures introduced in April 2000 only new regular surveys with annual compliance costs exceeding £50,000 need to be referred to the Office for National Statistics for clearance. During the reporting year one survey has been subject to this criteria Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications 2008, Ministerial approval was secured.

Ad Hoc Surveys

6. 24 ad-hoc surveys have been carried out/notified since April 2007, this is a decrease on 2006/07 when 26 were notified. For ad-hoc surveys conducted during the financial year 2007/08:
 - Compliance costs are £514,000; this figure has increased from £258,000 in 2006/07;
 - The number of businesses contacted is 85,385 an increase from 32,352 in 2006/7, the increase is largely due to a large ad-hoc survey on Construction KPI Users and Non-users.
 - Costs to BERR are £0.3 m compared to £0.4m during 2006/07;

7. Two of the ad-hoc surveys had a compliance cost over £50,000 for which ministerial approval was secured. SME accounting and audit arrangements and UK Survey of SME Finances.

Construction surveys

8. There are several large statutory construction surveys carried out, by the BERR Industry, Economics and Statistics Directorate (IES), for the production of the national economic data on construction, which form a key part of the national accounts. The surveys moved to ONS in February 2008 and all the figures have been adjusted to represent the eleven months that BERR was responsible for the surveys in 2007/08. The compliance costs estimated at just under £7.1m in 2007/8. This represents 78% of all BERR compliance costs.

ONS-run surveys

9. Previous year's compliance cost plans include BERR contributions towards the International Trade in Services (ITIS) survey. Compliance costs for this ONS-run survey were realised and has been included again in this year's plan.

Natalia Chivite-Matthews

Tables Annual Report on Survey Activity

Table A1: BERR survey activity number of surveys and contacts comparison: actual 2006/07, estimated 2007/08 and actual 2007/08

Survey type	Number of Surveys			No of Contacts		
	Actual 2006/7	Estimate 2007/8	Actual 2007/8	Actual 2006/7	Estimate 2007/8	Actual 2007/8
Regular surveys	51	(50)	49	413,965	(416,917)	392,826
Ad-hoc surveys	26	(6)	24	32,352	(32,500)	85,385
Total	77¹	(56)	73	446,317	(449,417)	478,211

Table A2: BERR survey activity cost to BERR and compliance cost comparison: actual 2006/07, estimated 2007/08 and actual 2007/08

Survey type	BERR Cost £ thousands			Compliance Cost £ thousands		
	Actual 2006/7	Estimate 2007/8	Actual 2007/8	Actual 2006/7	Estimate 2007/8	Actual 2007/8
Regular surveys	2,050	(2,320)	1,917	8,863	(9,194)	8,634
Ad-hoc surveys	433	(158)	294	258	(225)	514
Un-planned					(350)	
Total	2,482	(2,478)²	2,211	9,120	(9,769)	9,148

Notes:

1. Actual 2006/07 revised as per 2007 Machinery of Government changes
2. There is often insufficient data to accurately forecast BERR cost

Table A3: Comparisons of Estimated and Actual Costs by Directorate

Directorate	Estimate 2007/8			Actual 2007/08		
	Number of Respondents	£ Cost to BERR ¹	£ Compliance cost	Number of Respondents	£ Cost to BERR	£ Compliance cost
BR1				136	35,000	4,002
BR2	1,450	147,500	26,793	1,886	214,840	27,150
Business link	10,000	147,239	51,018	11,500	147,239	71,602
BSSP, ED (SBS)	44,673	670,150	465,778	41,673	321,839	400,057
CCP	1,000	100,000	10,323	5,950	100,000	44,989
CLG				11,300		81,060
COMMS (SU)	132	14,850	5,411	6,832	14,850	41,415
EDU	50	-	898	50		899
ER				5,000		69,044
ESIU	5,469	363,591	181,679	8,664	411,608	261,340
INSS	54,100	23,912	152,871	54,150	23,292	157,203
Legal services	6	-	305	6		305
ONS	9,000		689,000	9,000		689,000
Other	20	-	528	20		529
REIU				2,834		41,022
SPA				20,000		39,378
SPA (IES)	300,884	869,000	7,722,862	276,247	800,750	7,105,885
UKTI	20,250	142,000	101,135	20,250	142,000	101,207
UKTI IIG				360		2,655
NU	2,383	-	10,032	2,353		8,907
Sub total	449,417	2,478,242	9,418,634	478,211	2,211,418	9,147,651
Unplanned surveys			350,000			
Grand Total	449,417	2,478,242	9,768,634	478,211	2,211,418	9,147,651

Notes:

1. There is often insufficient data to accurately forecast BERR cost
2. In brackets names of previous directorates

Table A4: List of surveys 2007/08

Year	Directorate	Survey Sponsor	Survey Title	Frequency	Number of Respondents	Cost to BERR	Compliance cost
2007/8	BR1	David Smith	Journey Mapping	Ad-hoc	40	30,000	1,853
2007/8	BR1	Richard Bowden	Bioscience Futures Forum (BFF) Review	Ad-hoc	75		1,481
2007/8	BR1	Sue Ellison	UK Industrial Biotechnology Benchmarking Survey	Ad-hoc	21	5,000	669
2007/8	BR2	Jose Richardson	Survey to determine the use of industrial biotechnology in the UK chemicals sector	Ad-hoc	530	45,250	1,933
2007/8	BR2	Patrick Balchin	Information Security Breaches Survey 2008 (ISBS 2008)	Regular	1,100	117,500	19,229
2007/8	BR2	Patrick Mulligan	BR/Energy Group Customer Survey	Regular	231	30,000	4,310
2007/8	BR2	Russell Laverick	EITSU Stakeholder Communication Qualitative Research Project	Ad-hoc	25	22,090	1,678
2007/8	Business link	Moritz Flockenhaus	Businesslink.gov.uk Impact Assessment	Regular	10,000	147,239	51,065
2007/8	Business link	Moritz Flockenhaus	Businesslink.gov.uk product testing	Ad-hoc	1,500		20,537
2007/8	CCP	Carole Morgan	Tracking Research for Communications campaign for Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations, which come into force 6th April	Ad-hoc	4,950		34,666
2007/8	CCP	John Templeton	Peer review of Competition Policy	Regular	1,000	100,000	10,323
2007/8	CLG	Cathy Rees	SME accounting and audit arrangements	Ad-hoc	10,000		77,813
2007/8	CLG	Maureen Beresford	Survey of Companies Act 2006 Stakeholders	Ad-hoc	1,300		3,246
2007/8	COMMS	Steve Sheekey	NMW campaign 2007/08 tracking research	Ad-hoc	200		1,333
2007/8	COMMS	Caroline Munkenbeck	BERR EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE CAMPAIGN - POST WAVE QUESTIONNAIRE	Ad-hoc	5,000		27,858
2007/8	COMMS	Jenny Thomas	MORI - Captains of Industry Survey 2005	Regular	132	14,850	5,203
2007/8	COMMS	Natalie Craig	Tracking research for the guidance programme direct marketing campaign	Ad-hoc	1,500		7,021
2007/8	ED (SBS)	George Bramley	Evaluation of SFLG (SCU form for work planned 2007-08)	Regular	2,065	175	43,238
2007/8	ED (SBS)	Helene Keller	UK Survey of SME Finances	Ad-hoc	28,500	88,000	140,306
2007/8	ED (SBS)	Ian Drummond	Call off contract for focus groups on small business issues	Regular	108		8,962
2007/8	ED (SBS)	Phillip Lacey	Annual Small Business Survey 2007	Regular	8,500	200,000	192,199
2007/8	ED (SBS)	Phillip Lacey, AU	Customer satisfaction survey of suppliers using supply2.gov	Ad-hoc	2,500	33,664	15,352
2007/8	EDU	Allan Taylor	Survey of UK companies participating in Trade Missions organised by the Renewables Trade Promotion Service.	Regular	50		899
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Company Fuel Poverty Initiatives	Regular	9		1,477
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Domestic Fuels Inquiry	Regular	92		9,229
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Form A Crude Oil imports	Regular	96		1,020
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Form C: Prices paid by final consumers petroleum products	Regular	228		2,423
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Form D Net Sales Proceeds	Regular	9		191
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Generators Inquiry	Regular	88		5,885
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	New Price Transparency Survey Domestic	Regular	6	602	602
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	New Price Transparency Survey Industrial	Regular	100		10,032
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Producer Price Index	Regular	516		21,569
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Quarterly Fuels Inquiry	Regular	4,800	130,718	102,000
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Transparency of consumer energy prices - breakdown of consumers and consumption	Regular	26		1,739
2007/8	EMU	Jo Marvin	Weekly oil product prices	Regular	520		2,763
2007/8	EMU	Mike Earp	BERR Oil and Natural Gas Survey	Regular	85		9,365
2007/8	EMU	Mike Janes	Electricity Generators Inquiry	Regular	396	215,000	14,940
2007/8	EMU	Mike Janes	Renewable Energy Statistics	Regular	90	65,288	1,278
2007/8	EMU	Mike Janes	Survey of Coal Producers	Regular	108		2,380
2007/8	EMU	Mike Janes	Survey of gas suppliers	Regular	195		7,273
2007/8	EMU	Mike Janes	Survey of generators, distributors and suppliers of electricity	Regular	1,300		67,175
2007/8	ER	Carmen Alpin	Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications 2008	Regular	3,000		59,012
2007/8	ER	Tim Harrison	Survey of Recruitment Agencies	Ad-hoc	2,000		10,032
2007/8	INSS	Akiebel Grant	Complainants survey	Ad-hoc	50	300	260
2007/8	INSS	Caroline Burton	Survey of IVA creditors	Ad-hoc			26,864
2007/8	INSS	Caroline Burton	Survey of IVA supervisors	Ad-hoc			26,864
2007/8	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Business Confidence in Enforcement Regime (NoPs)	Regular	2,000	19,000	13,131
2007/8	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Comments/Suggestions Card	Regular	50,000	3,600	83,600
2007/8	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Insolvency Service Creditors survey	Regular	100	52	465
2007/8	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Insolvents Creditors Survey	Regular	300		965
2007/8	INSS	Melanie Charlton	IPs survey (Dear IP)	Regular	1,700	340	5,054
2007/8	Legal services	Joseph Gee	legal D stakeholder survey	Regular	6		305
2007/8	NU	Terry Dance	CWC UK NATIONAL AUTHORITY CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY	Regular	353		1,685
2007/8	NU	Marla Mistry/David Randall	Feedback Questionnaire on the Global Partnership Annual Report	Ad-hoc	2,000		7,222
2007/8	ONS	Tim Andrews	ITIS	Regular	9,000		689,000
2007/8	Other	Moritz Flockenhaus	BusinessLink Impact Assessment	Regular	20		529
2007/8	REIU	Sally Millward	Growth potential and future demand for microgeneration	Ad-hoc	2,834		41,022
2007/8	SPA	Keith Folwell	KPI Users/Non-users survey	Ad-hoc	20,000		39,378
2007/8	SPA (IES)	Frances Pottier	Annual Inquiry (also known as Small Firms Return)	Regular	156,750	188,833	2,620,860
2007/8	SPA (IES)	Frances Pottier	Building and Civil Engineering Employment and Output Inquiry (DLO)	Regular	590	23,833	26,016
2007/8	SPA (IES)	Frances Pottier	Monthly Inquiry of Contracts and New Orders	Regular	60,500	40,333	1,999,676
2007/8	SPA (IES)	Frances Pottier	Quarterly enquiry of Activity for Construction and Allied Trades	Regular	44,000	300,667	1,926,898
2007/8	SPA (IES)	Frances Pottier	Quarterly Inquiry of Projects in Progress (Probe)	Regular	9,167	197,083	302,981
2007/8	SPA (IES)	Keith Folwell	Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry	Regular	1,340		90,236
2007/8	SPA (IES)	Keith Folwell	Building Materials Inquiries	Regular	3,900	50,000	139,217
2007/8	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Awareness tracking survey	Regular	1,000		10,340
2007/8	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Evaluation of specified trade support activities	Ad-hoc	500	35,000	7,341
2007/8	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Evaluation of specified trade support activities	Ad-hoc	1,500	35,000	16,488
2007/8	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Evaluation of specified UKTI services survey	Regular	6,000		23,821
2007/8	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Evaluation of specified UKTI services survey	Regular	6,000		23,821
2007/8	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	International Trade Support Performance Monitoring	Regular	5,000	72,000	18,500
2007/8	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Survey of non-user exporters	Regular	250		896
2007/8	UKTI IIG	Bal Dhoot	FCO Economic and Diplomatic Reporting	Ad-hoc	360		2,655
Total					478,211	2,211,418	9,147,651