

BERR Forward Compliance Cost Plan on Survey Activity: 2008/09, 2009/10 & 2010/11

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. This report provides an estimated compliance cost plan for 2008/09 (Appendix B – Tables B1 to B5) and provisional estimates for costs for 2009/10 and 2010/11 (Appendix B – Tables B1 to B4). We recommend the approval of the compliance plan for 2008/09 and that the estimates for the following two years be noted.
3. In addition to surveys sponsored directly by the department, BERR also relies heavily on surveys conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to provide the statistical information it requires. In 2001/02 the ONS agreed to a major expansion in the International Trade in Services survey (ITIS), continuing a programme of work started in 2000/01 to provide improved information on exports of services. This information is needed to support the activities of UK Trade and Investment and enables data to be produced on the exports and imports of services to a wider range of partner countries and also leads to improved regional estimates of the exports of services. The additional running costs needed for this enhancement were absorbed by the ONS, but the additional compliance costs were divided between ONS and the BERR, which added an (approved) £689,000 to the BERR compliance ceiling in 2005/06. As this enhancement will continue for 2008/09 and remains of benefit to BERR, a contribution of £689,000 to the additional cost to be incurred is recommended for 2008/09.
4. Further to the known activity for 2008/09 there are also likely to be a number of as yet un-planned surveys throughout the year, full details of which are not yet available. Working on the number and costs of such surveys carried out over the last three years, it is recommended that an additional £350,000 be added to the estimated compliance costs for the year 2008/09.
5. Table B5 summarises proposed survey activity for the financial year 2008/09. This includes survey activity within BERR and also compliance contributions being sought for the ONS-run survey. **Compliance costs for the proposed survey activity during the next financial year are likely to be around £2.1 million** with the total number of contacts estimated at 129,042. This represents a sharp decrease from 2007/08

when compliance was £9.1 m. The decrease is mainly due to the transfer of several large statutory construction surveys, which had a compliance cost in 2007/08 of £7.1 m, to ONS.

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Tables Forward Compliance Plan on Survey Activity

Table B1: Number of Surveys: BERR survey activity comparison

Survey type	Actual		Estimate		
	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Regular surveys	51	49	43	43	43
Ad-hoc surveys	26	24	6	4	
Total	77¹	73	49	47	43

Table B2: No of Contacts: BERR survey activity comparison

Survey type	Actual		Estimate		
	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Regular surveys	413,965	392,826	119,257	119,527	122,455
Ad-hoc surveys	32,352	85,385	9,785		
Total	446,317	478,211	129,042	119,527	122,455

Table B3: BERR Cost: BERR survey activity comparison

Survey type	Actual £ thousands		Estimate £ thousands		
	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Regular surveys	2,050	1,917	997	1,107	1,007
Ad-hoc surveys	433	294			
Total	2,482	2,211	997	1,107	1,007

Table B4: Compliance Cost: BERR survey activity comparison

Survey type	Actual £ thousands		Estimate £ thousands		
	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Regular surveys	8,863	8,634	1,647	1,690	1,722
Ad-hoc surveys	258	514	91	107	
Un-planned			350	350	350
Total	9,120	9,148	2,088	2,147	2,072

Notes to tables:

1. There is often insufficient data to accurately forecast BERR cost
2. Estimated figures for 2009/10 onwards are not very reliable, as survey sponsors may not yet know of future survey work in their Divisions.
3. The estimated compliance costs for 2008/09 to 2010/11 are calculated based on 2007/08 set hourly rate of pay of the person completing the questionnaire. It is important to note that the ONS set hourly rate tends to increase and the increase has been very variable since 1992, the increase from 2006/07 to 2007/08 was 4% on average.

Table B5: Forward compliance plan 2008/09 provisional list of surveys

Year	Directorate	Survey Sponsor	Survey Title	Frequency	Number of Respondents	Cost to BERR	Compliance cost
2008/9	BEU	Peter Lovitt	Assessing the bureaucratic burdens on businesses in relation to the apprenticeship framework	Ad-hoc	4,000		12,310
2008/9	BEU	Vivien Brighton, Faisal Bachilani, Julie Skipp	Employability Skills	Ad-hoc	3,535		11,548
2008/9	BR2	Patrick Mulligan	BR/Energy Group Customer Survey (Energy Group participation subject to confirmation)	Regular	230	30,000	4,420
2008/9	BSSP (SBS)	Michael Hodson	Business Support Cross Product Monitoring Survey	Regular	4,000	60,000	40,399
2008/9	BSSP (SBS)	Michael Hodson	Business Support Cross Product Monitoring Survey of intermediaries	Regular	2,500	40,000	20,549
2008/9	Business Development and Awareness Unit	Miss Edwina Wontner	Export Control Organisation Customer Satisfaction Survey 2008	Regular	1,000		3,979
2008/9	Business link	Moritz Flockenhaus	Businesslink.gov.uk Impact Assessment	Regular	10,000	147,239	53,108
2008/9	CCP	Laura Owen/ Carole Morgan	Campaign tracking research for the 'Cancellation of Contracts Made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc Regulations 2008' (Doorstep Selling Regulations)	Ad-hoc	2,200		12,331
2008/9	COMMS	Jenny Thomas	MORI - Captains of Industry Survey 2005	Regular	132	14,850	5,411
2008/9	ED (SBS)	Ian Drummond	Call off contract for focus groups on small business issues	Regular	108		9,320
2008/9	ED (SBS)	Phillip Lacey	Annual Small Business Survey 2007	Regular	8,500	200,000	199,887
2008/9	EDU	Allan Taylor	Survey of UK companies participating in Trade Missions organised by the Renewables Trade Promotion Service.	Regular	50		935
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	Company Fuel Poverty Initiatives	Regular	9		1,536
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	Domestic Fuels Inquiry	Regular	92		9,599
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	Form A Crude Oil imports	Regular	96		1,061
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	Form C: Prices paid by final consumers petroleum products	Regular	228		2,519
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	Form D Net Sales Proceeds	Regular	9		199
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	Generators Inquiry	Regular	88		6,121
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	New Price Transparency Survey Domestic	Regular	6	602	626
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	New Price Transparency Survey Industrial	Regular	100		10,433
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	Producer Price Index	Regular	516		22,432
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	Quarterly Fuels Inquiry	Regular	1,200	78,003	24,411
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvín	Weekly oil product prices	Regular	520		2,873
2008/9	EMU	Mike Earp	BERR Oil and Natural Gas Survey	Regular	85		9,739
2008/9	EMU	Mike Janes	Electricity Generators Inquiry.	Regular	798	215,000	15,537
2008/9	EMU	Mike Janes	Renewable Energy Statistics	Regular	90	65,288	1,329
2008/9	EMU	Mike Janes	Survey of Coal Producers	Regular	108		2,475
2008/9	EMU	Mike Janes	Survey of gas suppliers	Regular	195		7,564
2008/9	EMU	Mike Janes	Survey of generators, distributors and suppliers of electricity	Regular	1,300		69,862
2008/9	Fair markets	Jackie Danker	Fair Markets Group Stakeholder Survey	Regular	328		2,756
2008/9	INSS	Caroline Burton	Survey of creditors regarding insolvency regimes	Ad-hoc			26,864
2008/9	INSS	Caroline Burton	Survey of debt advisors regarding insolvency regimes	Ad-hoc			26,864
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Business Confidence in Enforcement Regime (NoPs)	Regular	2,000	19,760	13,656
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Comments/Suggestions Card	Regular	50,000	3,744	86,944
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Insolvency Service Creditors survey	Regular	100	54	484
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Insolvents Creditors Survey	Regular	300		1,004
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	IPs Survey (Dear IP)	Regular	1,700	354	5,256
2008/9	Legal services	Joseph Gee	legal D stakeholder survey	Regular	6		318
2008/9	NU	Terry Dance	CWC UK NATIONAL AUTHORITY CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY	Regular	353		1,753
2008/9	ONS	Tim Andrews	ITIS	Regular	9,000		689,000
2008/9	Other	Moritz Flockenhaus	BusinessLink Impact Assessment	Regular	20		550
2008/9	REIU	Fiona Livingston	Investors Survey	Ad-hoc	50		1,216
2008/9	SPA (IES)	Keith Folwell	Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry	Regular	1,340		93,846
2008/9	SPA (IES)	Keith Folwell	Building Materials Inquiries	Regular	3,900	50,000	144,786
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Awareness tracking survey	Regular	1,000		10,754
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Evaluation of specified UKTI services survey	Regular	6,000		24,774
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Evaluation of specified UKTI services survey	Regular	6,000		24,774
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	International Trade Support Performance Monitoring	Regular	5,000	72,000	19,240
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Survey of non-user exporters	Regular	250		931
Sub total					129,042	996,894	1,738,281
Un-planned							350,000
Total					129,042	996,894	2,088,281