

Annual Report on Survey Activity for BERR (including DECC): 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009

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 authorities to a minimum. There is also a BIS survey control plan in place that aims to increase awareness of survey control and reduce the compliance burden.
4. This submission is reporting on the financial year 2008/09. It includes all surveys run by both BERR and DECC. DECC was created in October 2008 and will report separately in forthcoming years. For the year 2008/09:
 - The actual compliance cost is £1,818,670, which is below the projected compliance cost for the year by 13% (or £269,612).
 - Since 2007/08 compliance has fallen by £7.3million from £9,147,651 to £1,818,670. This large decline is primarily due to the change in ownership of 5 large construction surveys which moved from BERR to the ONS. These had a compliance cost in 2007/08 of £7.1million.
 - There has been a decrease in the number of surveys recorded from 73 in 2007/08 to 58 in 2008/09.
 - There has been a large decrease of 79% (379,112) in the number of questionnaires issued in 2008/09 compared with 2007/08. Again, this large decline is partly due to the removal of the construction surveys.
 - Costs to BERR (including DECC) have decreased from £2.2million in 2007/08 to £1.7million in 2008/09.

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

Regular Surveys

5. 47 regular surveys were notified compared with 49 last year. For regular surveys in 2008/09:
 - Compliance costs are £1.74million; this figure has decreased from £8.63million in 2007/08;
 - The number of businesses contacted is 85,285 down from 2007/08 when 392,826 businesses were contacted.
 - Costs to BERR (including DECC) are £1.5million, down from £1.9million in 2007/08.
6. 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 no surveys have met this criterion.

Ad Hoc Surveys

7. 11 ad-hoc surveys have been carried out/notified since April 2008, a decrease on 2007/08 when 24 were notified. For ad-hoc surveys conducted during the financial year 2008/09:
 - Compliance costs are £79,000; this figure has fallen from £514,000 in 2007/08;
 - The number of businesses contacted is 13,814 a decrease from 85,386 in 2007/8.
 - Costs to BERR (including DECC) are £257,000 compared to £294,000 during 2007/08.

These changes can probably be explained by the departmental changes, as a refocus would perhaps call for many of the survey plans to change or suffer delays.

8. None of the ad-hoc surveys have a compliance cost over £50,000.

Construction surveys

9. There were five large statutory construction surveys carried out, by BERR's Construction Statistics unit for the production of the national economic data on construction which form a key part of the national accounts. These were transferred to the ONS and are no longer reported through BIS, these represent a reduction of BERR's compliance of £7.1million.

ONS-run surveys

10. This year's compliance cost plans again include BERR contributions towards the International Trade in Services (ITIS) survey.

Ben Winkley

Tables Annual Report on Survey Activity

Table A1: BERR survey activity number of surveys and contacts comparison: actual 2007/08, estimated 2008/09 and actual 2008/09

Survey type	Number of Surveys			No of Contacts		
	Actual 2007/8	Estimate 2008/9	Actual 2008/9	Actual 2007/8	Estimate 2008/9	Actual 2008/9
Regular surveys	49	(43)	47	392,826	(119,257)	85,285
Ad-hoc surveys	24	(6)	11	85,385	(9,785)	13,814
Total	73	(49)	58	478,211	(129,042)	99,099

Table A2: BERR survey activity cost to BERR and compliance cost comparison: actual 2007/08, estimated 2008/09 and actual 2008/09

Survey type	BERR Cost £ thousands			Compliance Cost £ thousands		
	Actual 2007/8	Estimate 2008/9	Actual 2008/9	Actual 2007/8	Estimate 2008/9	Actual 2008/9
Regular surveys	1,917	(997)	1,451	8,634	(1,647)	1,740
Ad-hoc surveys	294	(0)	257	514	(91)	79
Un-planned					(350)	
Total	2,211	(997)ⁱ	1,707ⁱⁱ	9,148	(2,088)	1,819ⁱⁱⁱ

Notes

- I. There is often insufficient data to accurately forecast BERR cost
- II. Components may not sum to totals as a result of rounding
- III. The large decrease between 2007/8 and 2008/9 is due to the change in ownership of 5 large construction surveys which moved from BERR to the ONS. Together they had a compliance cost of £7.1million

Table A3: Comparisons of Estimated and Actual Costs by Directorate

Directorate	Estimated 2008/09			Actual 2008/09		
	Number of Respondents	£ Cost to BERR	£ Compliance cost	Number of Respondents	£ Cost to BERR (inc. DECC)	£ Compliance cost
OND				330		1,615
BDAU	1,000		3,979			
BEU	7,535		23,858	4,150	9,950	13,177
BR2	230	30,000	4,420	3,833	80,000	38,394
BSSP	6,500	100,000	60,948	1,830	55,985	18,734
Business link	10,000	147,239	53,108			
CCP	2,200		12,331	7,028	142,950	28,840
COMMS	132	14,850	5,411			
ED (SBS)	8,608	200,000	209,208	12,475	314,796	272,778
EDU	50		935	200		1,169
EITD				503	36,756	2,301
EMU	5,440	358,893	188,316	6,152	343,600	205,849
Fair markets	328		2,756	328		1,295
IPO				35		
INSS	54,100	23,912	161,072	10,900	333,483	62,663
Legal services	6		318			
NU	353		1,753			
ONS	9,000		689,000	18,063		739,042
Other	20		550			
REIU	50		1,216	185		9,139
SCU				112	29,050	10,119
SPA (IES)	5,240	50,000	238,632	10,765	190,586	177,011
UKTI	18,250	72,000	80,474	22,210	170,000	236,542
Unplanned			350,000			
Total	129,042	996,894	2,088,281	99,099	1,707,156	1,818,670

Note

1. There is often insufficient data to accurately forecast BERR cost
2. Blank cells are 0 or unknown

Table A4: List of surveys 2008/09

Year	Directorate	Survey Sponsor	Survey Title	Frequency	Number of Respondents	Cost to BERR/DECC	Compliance cost
2008/9	BEU	Stephen Johnston	Research into World Bank's Trading Across Borders Survey	Ad Hoc	150	£ 9,950	£ 560
2008/9	BEU	Peter Lovitt	Assessing the bureaucratic burdens on businesses in relation to the apprenticeship framework	Ad Hoc	4000		£ 12,617
2008/9	BR2	Chris Whelan	ICT Employer Panel Inquiry	Regular	3606	£ 50,000	£ 34,668
2008/9	BR2	Patrick Mulligan	BR/Energy Group Customer Survey	Regular	227	£ 30,000	£ 3,727
2008/9	BSSP	Jason Hayman	Business Support Cross Product Monitoring Survey of CRD and MAS	Regular	830	£ 43,000	£ 7,191
2008/9	BSSP	Michael Hodson	Business Support Cross Product Monitoring Survey of SFIE.	Regular	1000	£ 12,985	£ 11,543
2008/9	CCP	Gerald Gregory	Consumer Rights Directive - Survey of Retailers on Repeal of Right to Reject	Ad Hoc	6867	£ 56,400	£ 26,133
2008/9	CCP	Roger Dennison	Street Trading and pedlary in Great Britain	Ad Hoc	161	£ 86,550	£ 2,707
2008/9	ED	Daniel van der Schans	Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme (SFLG) Evaluation	Ad Hoc	1569	£ 40,000	£ 21,019
2008/9	ED	James Phipps	Interim Evaluation of Regional Venture Capital Funds and Early Growth Funds	Ad Hoc	344	£ 26,846	£ 4,128
2008/9	ED	Phillip Lacey	Annual Small Business Survey 2008	Regular	9362	£ 200,000	£ 225,254
2008/9	ED	Ian Drummond	Call off contract for focus groups on small business issues	Regular	200		£ 2,259
2008/9	ED	Phillip Lacey AU	ASBS 2008 Follow-up Survey	Regular	1000	£ 47,950	£ 20,118
2008/9	EDU	Andy Compton	Survey of UK companies participating in Trade Missions organised by the Renewables Trade Promotion Service.	Regular	200		£ 1,169
2008/9	EITD	Jayne Carpenter	Study on regulatory burdens at the uk borders for exports of controlled goods and uk compliance with dual use export controls	Ad Hoc	503	£ 36,756	£ 2,301
2008/9	EMU	Mita kerai	Survey of Coal Producers	Regular	112		£ 2,468
2008/9	EMU	Chris Michaels	Survey of generators, distributors and suppliers of electricity	Regular	1300		£ 67,175
2008/9	EMU	James Hemingway	Survey of gas suppliers	Regular	195		£ 7,273
2008/9	EMU	Alison Judd	Electricity Generators Inquiry.	Regular	396	£ 215,000	£ 14,208
2008/9	EMU	Julian Prime	Renewable Energy Statistics	Regular	199	£ 65,288	£ 1,673
2008/9	EMU	Mike Earp	DECC Oil and Natural Gas Survey	Regular	160		£ 17,628
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvin	New Price Transparency Survey: non-domestic	Regular	72		£ 7,223
2008/9	EMU	Susan Lomas	Generators Inquiry	Regular	84		£ 5,618
2008/9	EMU	Jo Marvin	Quarterly Fuels Inquiry	Regular	2400	£ 60,904	£ 51,000
2008/9	EMU	Cindy Smith	Domestic Fuels Inquiry	Regular	64		£ 6,420
2008/9	EMU	Susan Lomas	Form D Net Sales Proceeds	Regular	9		£ 191
2008/9	EMU	Susan Lomas	Form A Crude Oil imports	Regular	96		£ 1,020
2008/9	EMU	Susan Lomas	Form C: Prices paid by final consumers petroleum products	Regular	52		£ 553
2008/9	EMU	Cindy Smith	Weekly oil product prices	Regular	572		£ 3,039

Table continued below

2008/9	EMU	Susan Lomas	Producer Price Index	Regular	408	£	17,054
2008/9	EMU	Emma Reed	Company Fuel Poverty Initiatives	Regular	9	£	897
2008/9	EMU	Cindy Smith	New Price Transparency Survey Domestic	Regular	24	£	2,408
2008/9	Fair markets	Nicola Watts	Fair Markets Group Stakeholder Survey	Regular	328	£	1,295
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Insolvents Creditors Survey	Regular	300	£	1,766
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Insolvency Service Creditors survey	Regular	100	£	52
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	IP Cashier - (cashiers working for IP firms)	Regular	1500	£	500
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Business Confidence in Enforcement Regime (NoPs)	Regular	2000	£	19,000
2008/9	INSS	Melanie Charlton	Stigma of Bankruptcy survey (Sole Proprietors - operating)	Regular	7000	£	313,931
2008/9	OND	Terry Dance	CWC UK National Authority customer satisfaction survey	Regular	330	£	1,615
2008/9	ONS	Tim Andrews	International Trade in Services	Regular	18063	£	739,042
2008/9	IPO	Scott Fielding	Assessment of the Impact of a European Patent Court	Ad Hoc	35		
2008/9	REIU	Graeme Childe	Market Research into the low carbon energy innovation landscape	Ad Hoc	80	£	6,188
2008/9	REIU	Fiona Livingston	Investors Survey	Ad Hoc	50	£	1,216
2008/9	REIU	Katherine MacNeil	RAB Task 10: Renewable Energy Planning Questionnaire	Ad Hoc	55	£	1,736
2008/9	SCU	Jenny Thomas	MORI - Captains of Industry Survey 2005	Regular	100	£	14,850
2008/9	SCU	Jenny Thomas	MORI - Corporate Stakeholder Survey 2006	Regular	12	£	14,200
2008/9	SPA	Liz Anastasi	Determining cost-effective actions for business in reducing carbon emissions	Regular	25	£	51,750
2008/9	SPA	Liz Anastasi	Implications of PAS 2050: Carbon Reductions in the Supply Chain	Regular	5500	£	5,750
2008/9	SPA	Keith Folwell	Building Materials Inquiries	Regular	3900	£	109,586
2008/9	SPA	Keith Folwell	Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry	Regular	1340	£	23,500
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	International Trade Support Performance and Impact Monitoring Survey (PIMS)	Regular	8800	£	124,404
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Survey of non-user exporters	Regular	750	£	8,797
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Awareness and internationalisation tracking survey	Regular	4500	£	50,000
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Awareness and internationalisation tracking survey	Regular	4500	£	50,000
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Evaluation of specified UKTI services survey	Regular	1600	£	35,000
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Evaluation of specified UKTI services survey	Regular	1600	£	35,000
2008/9	UKTI	Heather Booth di Giovanni	Performance and Impact Monitoring Survey (PIMS) Inward Investment	Regular	300	£	4,129
2008/9	UKTI	Jeff Burcham	UKTI DSO Survey of Defence Exports	Regular	160	£	2,085
Total					99,099	1,707,156	1,818,670