



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Email FOI@nao.org.uk

Reference FOI-1551

Date 21 October 2022

FUNDING REVENUE EXPENDITURE THROUGH GOVERNMENT BORROWING

Thank you for your request of 7 October 2022 on the matter of funding revenue expenditure through government borrowing. Your request was considered in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Specific information requested:

"Please supply me with any warning documentation which the NAO has issued to central government about the inadvisability of funding revenue expenditure from borrowing on the grounds of bad financial practice."

Based on the information you provided we have conducted a thorough search of our audit records and archives. Unfortunately, we have been unable to identify information within the scope of your request.

The National Audit Office originally retained many of its records on its internal website or in its local offices. However, a records management improvement plan was undertaken to simplify and reduce the amount of data stored, and as a result a lot of information was either destroyed or transferred to other online sites.

Having searched our audit records and archives, we can confirm that we do not hold information within the scope of your request. Any information we held would have been destroyed in accordance with our records retention policy. The policy outlines our retention schedules which govern how long we need to keep different types of records. Certified annual reports and accounts, supporting working papers, files, evidence, journals, and certification documents are only retained for 6 years. If we previously held any documentation of this nature, it would have been destroyed in accordance with our records retention policy for this type of material. I am sorry that we are unable to help you with your request on this occasion.

Annex B sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under the FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team

157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London SW1W 9SP
020 7798 7000 www.nao.org.uk



Cert No. 8835

ISO 14001

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI.requests@nao.org.uk or by post to:

FOI Team, Red 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Manager of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF