



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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COVID-19 COST TRACKER

Thank you for your FOI request to the National Audit Office (NAO) dated 12 February. You requested updated figures about the estimated lifetime cost of government spending as a result of COVID-19 published in our [COVID-19 cost tracker](#).

Your request has been handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have checked our records and although we do not hold the information you have requested, we believe that there is publicly available information that will help answer your queries.

The NAO has not updated its COVID-19 cost tracker since June 2022. HM Treasury (HMT) committed to publishing the tracker to meet its [commitments to the Public Accounts Committee](#). HMT initially proposed publishing two annual iterations of the tracker, but later decided to publish one update, based on all remaining active measures as of June 2022.

This [was published in July 2023](#), and HMT's overview provides these headline updates:

- £373 billion: The amount the government expected to spend once all measures – both those still active and those already complete – were finished
- £92.58 billion: The amount HMT knew the government or the Bank of England had loaned – for example, via the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan scheme – or guaranteed so far (where data were available)
- £358 billion: The amount the government had spent on these measures (where data are available)
- 76%: the percentage of measures that were then finished, with 24% still open

There is further detail and analysis on costs in this document from HMT: [2023 HMT COVID-19 Cost Tracker update.pdf](#).

There is also a breakdown of estimated lifetime cost by category of support available through the COVID-19 Cost Tracker dataset published on this page: [HM Treasury: 2023 COVID-19 Cost Tracker update - GOV.UK](#).

The [Whole of Government Accounts 2022-23](#) (published in November 2024) confirms that the latest update to the tracker was published in July 2023.

I hope this explanation is helpful. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. 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 primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely,

FOI and Correspondence Officer