



National Audit Office

National Audit Office Main Estimate 2025-26

Public Accounts Commission
April 2025



National Audit Office

National Audit Office Main Estimate 2025-26

Presented to the House of Commons pursuant to Section 23(5)
of the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 1 April 2025



© Crown copyright 2025

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at www.nao.org.uk/contact-us

ISBN 978-1-915287-58-8

Printed in the UK on behalf of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office

Contents

Introduction	6
Main Supply Estimate Arrangements	7
Part I: Expenditure and Ambit	9
Part II: Subhead detail	10
Part II: Resource to cash reconciliation	11
Part III: Note A – Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure and Reconciliation Table	12
Part III: Note B – Analysis of Income	13
Part III: Note C – Analysis of Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts	14
Part III: Note D – Explanation of Accounting Officer responsibilities	15

Introduction

This Estimate provides for expenditure by the National Audit Office. It covers the expenditure and associated non-cash items incurred in the provision of independent assurance to Parliament on the proper accounting for central government expenditure, revenue and assets, including compliance with laws and regulations, and in the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which central government resources have been used; and the provision of independent assurance and information to a wide range of other public, international, and overseas bodies and to members of the public.

The National Audit Office is an independent body reporting to Parliament. The National Audit Office's funding is provided through a Supply Estimate approved by the Public Accounts Commission of the House of Commons and is presented to Parliament at the same time as the Main Estimates for central government departments presented by HM Treasury.

Supply Estimates are the means by which authority is sought from Parliament for spending each year. The Main Estimates start this process and are presented to Parliament around the start of the financial year to which they relate.

The way in which Parliament considers the Supply Estimates are described in detail in the **Supply Estimates: A Guidance Manual** available on the HM Treasury website.

Main Supply Estimate Arrangements

Under Section 23 of the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011, the National Audit Office and the Comptroller and Auditor General are required to jointly prepare an Estimate of the National Audit Office's use of resources.

Structure The National Audit Office Estimate for 2025-26 is accompanied by explanatory notes containing basic information intended to put the Estimate into context; including a general description of the expenditure involved; a statement of the Accounting Officer responsibilities for the Estimate; and an indication of any important features.

The core elements which consist of the sums and services to be voted in the resource based Supply Estimate are produced in a standard format.

The National Audit Office is outside of the HM Treasury Spending Review process and receives spending authority through the Public Accounts Commission for resource, capital and cash. For the purposes of alignment the National Audit Office's Resource Estimate presents all resources for 2025-26 as equivalent to resource DEL and capital DEL.

Part I **Part I** of the Estimate contains the net provision sought in resource, capital, Non-Budget and cash terms; a formal description of the services to be financed from the Estimate, known as its Ambit; details of who will account for the Estimate; and any resources, capital and cash, which have already been allocated to it in the Vote on Account.

The resources required and the Ambit will be reproduced in the Supply and Appropriation Act and together provide the statutory authority for the expenditure.

Part II The first section of **Part II** of the Estimate provides a breakdown of the expenditure for which approval is sought.

The different types of expenditure and income within the Estimate are shown in the matrix at the top of page 10. Each of the columns numbered 1 to 12 is expressed in accruals terms. Columns 1 to 7 fall within the Resource Budget and show the components of the net resource requirement on an accruals basis. Columns 1 and 4 show direct expenditure by the National Audit Office within the resource accounting boundary. It includes amounts in respect of the current consumption of assets but does not include amounts associated with the acquisition of capital items.

Income within the Resource Budget is shown in columns 2 and 5 and is deducted from the gross resource total shown in columns 1 and 4 to give the net total amount (column 7). This amount is subject to Parliamentary control.

Columns 8 to 10 show the Capital Budget elements of the Estimate. Columns 8 and 9 show forecast capital expenditure and income on an accruals basis, respectively, to give a net total amount (column 10). This amount is subject to Parliamentary control.

Columns 11 and 12 show the net total resource and capital figures for the prior year. The figures on page 11 show the aggregate adjustment made to the net resource requirement to arrive at the net cash requirement. The net cash requirement represents the total cash required from the Consolidated Fund by the National Audit Office to carry out its functions and is also subject to Parliamentary control.

Part III **Part III** of the Estimate comprises notes which provide additional information to Parliament about the specific nature of the National Audit Office's plans.

Note A – Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure and Reconciliation Table shows the Net Programme Costs, the Total Comprehensive Net Expenditure and the Total Resource Budget.

Note B – Analysis of Income provides a breakdown of the National Audit Office's income.

Note C – Analysis of Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts provides details of income that is to be paid to the Consolidated Fund.

Note D – Explanation of Accounting Officer responsibilities sets out the Comptroller and Auditor General's relevant responsibilities as Accounting Officer.

PART I: EXPENDITURE AND AMBIT

£

	Voted	Non-Voted	Total
Departmental Expenditure Limit¹			
Resource	111,000,000	350,000	111,350,000
Capital	4,000,000	—	4,000,000
Non-Budget Expenditure	—		
Net Cash Requirement	110,500,000		

Amounts required in the year ending 31 March 2026 for expenditure by National Audit Office on:

Departmental Expenditure Limit:

Expenditure arising from:

Expenditure and associated non-cash items incurred in the provision of independent assurance and information to Parliament on the proper accounting for central government expenditure, revenue, assets and liabilities, including compliance with laws and regulations, and in the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which central government resources have been used; and the provision of independent assurance and information and advice to a wide range of other public, international, and overseas bodies and to members of the public.

Income arising from:

the provision of audit and assurance services to a range of organisations, including international and overseas bodies, income from the rental of surplus office space, income arising from the sale, licensing, or disposal of assets and other miscellaneous receipts.

National Audit Office will account for this Estimate.

£

	Voted Total	Allocated in Vote on Account	Balance to complete or surrender
Departmental Expenditure Limit¹			
Resource	111,000,000	45,855,000	65,145,000
Capital	4,000,000	1,935,000	2,065,000
Non-Budget Expenditure	—	—	—
Net Cash Requirement	110,500,000	45,675,000	64,825,000

¹ All resources equivalent to Resource DEL or Capital DEL used in the Central Government Supply Estimates.

PART II: SUBHEAD DETAIL

2025-26 Plans												2024-25 Plans		£'000	
Resources												Capital		Resources	Capital
Administration						Programme			Total						
Gross Income		Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross Income		Net	Gross Income		Net	Net	Net		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			11	12		
Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) ²															
Voted expenditure															
A	Provision of audit and other assurance services	–	–	145,500	-34,500	111,000	111,000	4,100	-100	4,000		101,900	4,300		
Total voted DEL		–	–	145,500	-34,500	111,000	111,000	4,100	-100	4,000		101,900	4,300		
Non-voted expenditure															
B	Comptroller and Auditor General and Chair Salary (CFSS)	–	–	350	–	350	350	–	–	–		330	–		
Total non-voted DEL		–	–	350	–	350	350	–	–	–		330	–		
Total DEL		–	–	145,850	-34,500	111,350	111,350	4,100	-100	4,000		102,230	4,300		
Of which:															
	Voted expenditure	–	–	145,500	-34,500	111,000	111,000	4,100	-100	4,000		101,900	4,300		
	Non-voted expenditure	–	–	350	–	350	350	–	–	–		330	–		

2 All resources equivalent to Resource DEL or Capital DEL used in the Central Government Supply Estimates.

PART II: RESOURCE TO CASH RECONCILIATION

£'000

	2025-26 Plans	2024-25 Plans	2023-24 Outturn
Net Resource Requirement	111,350	102,230	92,581
Net Capital Requirement	4,000	4,300	3,003
Accruals to cash adjustments	-4,500	-4,700	-1,708
<i>Of which:</i>			
Adjustments to remove non-cash items:			
Depreciation	-4,500	-4,300	-4,043
New provisions and adjustments to previous provisions	1	-1	-55
Other non-cash items	—	—	94
Adjustments to reflect movements in working balances:			
Increase (+) / Decrease (-) in debtors	-150	-200	460
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) in creditors	149	-199	1,634
Use of provisions	—	—	202
Removal of non-voted budget items	-350	-330	-300
<i>Of which:</i>			
Consolidated Fund Standing Services	-350	-330	-300
Net Cash Requirement	110,500	101,500	93,576

PART III: NOTE A – STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NET EXPENDITURE AND RECONCILIATION TABLE

	£'000		
	2025-26 Plans	2024-25 Plans	2023-24 Outturn
Gross Programme Costs (DEL)	145,850	130,830	122,278
<i>Less:</i>			
Programme Income (DEL)	-34,500	-28,600	-29,697
Net Programme Costs	111,350	102,230	92,281
Total Net Operating Costs	111,350	102,230	92,581
<i>Of which:</i>			
Resource DEL	111,350	102,230	92,581
<i>Adjustments</i>	—	—	—
Total Resource Budget	111,350	102,230	92,581
<i>Of which:</i>			
Resource DEL	111,350	102,230	92,581
<i>Adjustments</i>	—	—	—
Total Resource (Estimate)	111,350	102,230	92,581

PART III: NOTE B – ANALYSIS OF INCOME

£'000

	2025-26 Plans	2024-25 Plans	2023-24 Outturn
Voted Resource DEL	-34,500	-28,600	-29,697
<i>Of which:</i>			
A Provision of audit and other assurance services			
Sale of goods and services	-32,200	-26,000	-27,923
Other Rentals	-2,300	-2,600	-1,774
Total Voted Resource Income	-34,500	-28,600	-29,697
Voted Capital DEL	-100	-100	–
<i>Of which:</i>			
A Provision of audit and other assurance services			
Sale of assets	-100	-100	–
Total Voted Capital Income	-100	-100	–

PART III: NOTE C – ANALYSIS OF CONSOLIDATED FUND EXTRA RECEIPTS

No Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts income or receipts are expected for 2024-25 or 2025-26. There were none for 2023-24.

PART III: NOTE D – EXPLANATION OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011 the Public Accounts Commission has appointed the Comptroller and Auditor General to be responsible as Accounting Officer for the National Audit Office. The National Audit Office and the Comptroller and Auditor General are required to jointly prepare an Estimate of the National Audit Office's use of resources.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's relevant responsibilities as Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the National Audit Office's finances, for keeping of proper records and for safeguarding the National Audit Office's assets, are set out in the Accounting Officer's Memorandum issued by the Public Accounts Commission.

In discharging these responsibilities, particular regard is given to:

- stating whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM), or an organisation's version of it, have been followed, and explain any material departures in the resource accounts;
- the application of appropriate accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- ensuring judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis; and
- preparing the accounts on a going concern basis.

For further information about the National Audit Office please contact:

National Audit Office

Press Office

157–197 Buckingham Palace Road

Victoria

London

SW1W 9SP

Tel: 020 7798 7400

Enquiries: www.nao.org.uk/contact-us

DP Ref: 072251

ISBN 978-1-915287-58-8