**About the IDBR**

From the 1st April 2011, the responsibility for the collection of data and production of official labour market and economic statistics transferred from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), an agency of the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP).

The IDBR is a business register which contains information on all businesses in the UK which are VAT registered or operating a PAYE scheme. The register is located in the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Newport but the NI element of the register is maintained within DFP Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch (ELMSB). The IDBR is the sampling frame used for the vast majority of Government statistical surveys to businesses. The IDBR covers most of the economy including the Agriculture, Production and Service sectors in Northern Ireland. It does not, however, include very small businesses which fall below the VAT and PAYE thresholds. The facts and figures are drawn together from two main sources: the IDBR and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform- Enterprise Directorate.

The Local Government District (LGD) is allocated based on the “enterprise” or “reporting unit” postcode, which has been matched to the NISRA Control Postcode Directory. Thus in the tables, a business with a head office in Belfast is included in the figures for Belfast, even though it may have work sites in other District Council areas.

The IDBR enables Government to conduct efficient and cost effective surveys/inquiries whilst minimising the burden on businesses. It is used for national accounts and labour market statistics, as well as providing basic information on the structure of the economy (for example, business births and deaths). In short, it is used in four main ways:-

• To select the businesses to be included in the surveys/inquiries,

• Tomail forms,

• to enable estimatesto be made for businesses who do not respond or those not asked to participate in any particular inquiry, and

• To produce analyses of business activity.

The register must therefore be comprehensive in coverage, accurate, up-to-date and contain the minimum amount of duplication.

Who uses the IDBR?

The following Government Departments currently make use of the IDBR. However access is restricted to those staff that require the use of the IDBR in their daily jobs, for example, those staff working in a statistics branch.

• Office for National Statistics - for UK statistical inquiries and analysis.

• Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment - for statistical inquiries and analysis.

• Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (GB) and the Department of Finance and Personnel (NI) - for construction inquiries.

• Department of Trade and Industry - for statistical inquiries and analysis, mainly relating to small firms.

• Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (GB) - for analysis.

• The National Assembly for Wales - for statistical inquiries and analysis.

• The Scottish Executive - for analysis.

• Department for Work and Pensions - for statistical inquiries.

**Who else can use the IDBR?**

* Central Government - access to information for surveys and analysis.
* Local Authorities and other government bodies - access to some disclosive data.
* Government Contractors - Information for surveys and analysis as specified in their contracts.
* General public - Access to analyses provided they are not disclosive.

Glossary and Links:

A glossary of IDBR terms and abbreviations, past editions of ‘Facts and Figures from the IDBR’ and further information on the IDBR including its usage and the structure of the IDBR can be found by following the link below:

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-inter-dept-bus-register.htm>