

Notice of revisions to the 2014 Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry (NIABI) questionnaire

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Introduction

This article explains the forthcoming improvements to the 2014 NI Annual Business Inquiry questionnaire scheduled for issue in March 2015. These improvements are designed to meet the UK requirement to comply with the European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010) in the compilation of the 2014 UK National Accounts (Blue Book 2014).

The NIABI is legally required to provide information for the UK Annual Business Survey, UK National Accounts and the European Structural Business Statistics (SBS). As such DFP must make all necessary amendments to ensure NIABI data complies with the new ESA 10 regulations.

In addition to these legally required changes, there are several additions to the construction sector's questionnaire. These improvements will facilitate comparison with the NI Construction Output Statistics by increasing the consistency of data collected across surveys. All additional data will also be utilised in the ongoing development of a set of Supply Use tables for Northern Ireland.

Changes to the questionnaire

The legally required changes to the NIABI survey are limited to the collection of Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF). GFCF refers to the estimate of net capital expenditure on fixed assets (acquisitions less the proceeds on disposals). Examples of capital expenditure include spending on machinery and equipment, transport equipment, software, new dwellings and structures such as roads.

The legally required changes include:

- All GFCF to be included, not just that over £500
- The inclusion of small tools used in production within the definition of GFCF
- The inclusion of contracts and fees for sports personnel within the definition of GFCF
- Introducing new asset breakdowns such as:
 - Natural resources
 - Intellectual property
 - Mineral exploration and evaluation
 - Other non-produced assets such as goodwill and marketing

The changes to the construction questionnaire will involve the addition of three questions relating to the characteristics of the projects from which their income is derived.

Impact of changes

- NIABI will ask 7 additional capital expenditure questions on its long questionnaires, there will be no additional questions added to the short questionnaires.
- Sports clubs and companies in the mining and quarrying sector will be asked a further capital expenditure question relating exclusively to their industrial classification.

- There will be amendments to the wording and background notes for the existing capital expenditure questions.
- There will be a minor change to the calculation of approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA). This is because a small component of capital expenditure: “work of a capital nature by own staff for business use, excluding software” currently feeds into aGVA. ESA 2010 clarifies that in-house developed software should be included in the calculation of aGVA.
- Construction companies will be asked an additional 3 income based questions.

Further information

Copies of the 2013 NIABI questionnaire are available on the DETI website:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/index/what-we-do/deti-stats-index/forms_other_surveys/survey-forms.htm

More information on the NIABI can be found in the NIABI quality report:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/niabi_quality_report_101213.pdf?rev=0

Any general queries about the NIABI and its associated outputs should be directed to 028 9052 9656.