**USAGE OF THE IDBR**

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?

IDBR data is widely used by anyone who has an interest in the NI economy. The figures are used by economists and economic commentators both within and outside Government in assessments of the state of the economy e.g. the Ulster Bank in their Economic Commentary. In addition, significant non-governmental users of the data include District Councils, consultants, research organisations, universities, academic researchers both home and abroad, the media and the general public, e.g. Ulster Bank and Oxford Economics.

The data is used by policy staff and economists within the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to better inform their decision making. Staff from InvestNI use the data to guide decisions in identifying investment opportunities and to monitor the effect of those investments on the economy. The Private Office and the Press office use the data for responding to media queries as well as input to Assembly Questions, speeches, Ministerial correspondence, etc.

**Disclosure Control Methods**

Statistical disclosure control methodology is applied to IDBR data in accordance with The Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and specifically the Principle on Confidentiality (P.C) and by specific legislation. These measures ensure that information attributable to an individual or individual organisation is not identifiable in published outputs. More information can be found in National Statistician’s Guidance: Confidentiality of Official Statistics and in the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency Economic and Labour Market Statistics (NISRA ELMS) confidentiality statement:

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-national-statistics/data-security.htm>

Counts of businesses are rounded to the nearest 5 to avoid disclosure. Cell counts and totals are rounded independently and thus components may not add to totals.

For further information on the IDBR and access to ‘Facts and Figures from the IDBR’ publications please visit the website below:

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