

Main Estimates memorandum 2023-24 – The National Archives

1 Overview

1.1 Objectives

The National Archives (TNA) is a non-ministerial department and the official archive and publisher for the UK Government and for England and Wales. We work to bring together and secure the future of the public record, both digital and physical, for future generations.

Public Task

The National Archives' Public Task under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 ('the Regulations') consists of the statutory obligations of The National Archives and the duties of its officials (including those duties delegated by the Secretary of State to the Keeper of Public Records):

- under the Public Records Act 1958 and associated legislation
- under the Historical Manuscripts Commission Royal Warrant
- under Letters Patent, appointing the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office, King's Printer of Acts of Parliament and Government Printer of Northern Ireland
- under the Scotland Act 1998, appointing the King's Printer for Scotland
- as official publisher of all UK legislation
- as leader of the archives sector in England
- as a non-ministerial government department sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Archives for Everyone

We updated our business priorities in light of COVID-19 and in line with our strategy *Archives for Everyone 2019-23*, to focus on five Business Priorities:

1. Capture the record and aid legal uncertainty
2. Take the collection to new audiences
3. Realise the value of archives through research, innovation and commercial exploitation
4. Lead the archives sector to a secure and sustainable future
5. Change the way we work.

Our business plan for the next four years will set out our updated business priorities and is due to be published in late Spring.

1.2 Spending controls

TNA's net spending is broken down into several different spending totals, for which Parliament's approval is sought.

The spending totals which Parliament votes are:

- Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit ("**Resource DEL**"): - a net limit comprising day-to-day running costs.

- Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit (“**Capital DEL**”): - investment in capital equipment such as computer equipment, estates and software development.
- Annually Managed Expenditure (“**AME**”): - less predictable and controllable spending than expenditure in DEL. Relates to payments for an onerous lease, depreciation on donated assets and provisions arising in year for TNA.

In addition, Parliament votes a net cash requirement, designed to cover the elements of the above budgets which require TNA to pay out cash in year.

1.3 Comparison of net spending totals sought

The table below shows how the net spending totals sought for TNA compared with the original budget for this year and the final outturn for last year:

| Net Spending total Amounts sought this year (Main Estimate 2023-24) | | Difference (+/-) compared to prior year final budget (Supplementary Estimate 2022-23) | | Difference (+/-) compared to prior year original budget (Main Estimate 2022-23) | |
|--|--------|---|---------|--|---------|
| | | £ m | % | £m | % |
| Resource DEL (including depreciation) | £46.8 | (£0.1m) | (0.2%) | £ 0.1m | 0.2% |
| Capital DEL | £ 4.3m | (£1.6m) | (26.6%) | (£1.5m) | (25.3%) |

1.4 Key drivers of spending changes since last year

The decrease in RDEL is due to one-off additional income of £0.9m in 2022-23 relating to the 1921 Census. This is offset by a budget cover transfer of £0.7m from DCMS to cover New Burdens payments to local authorities.

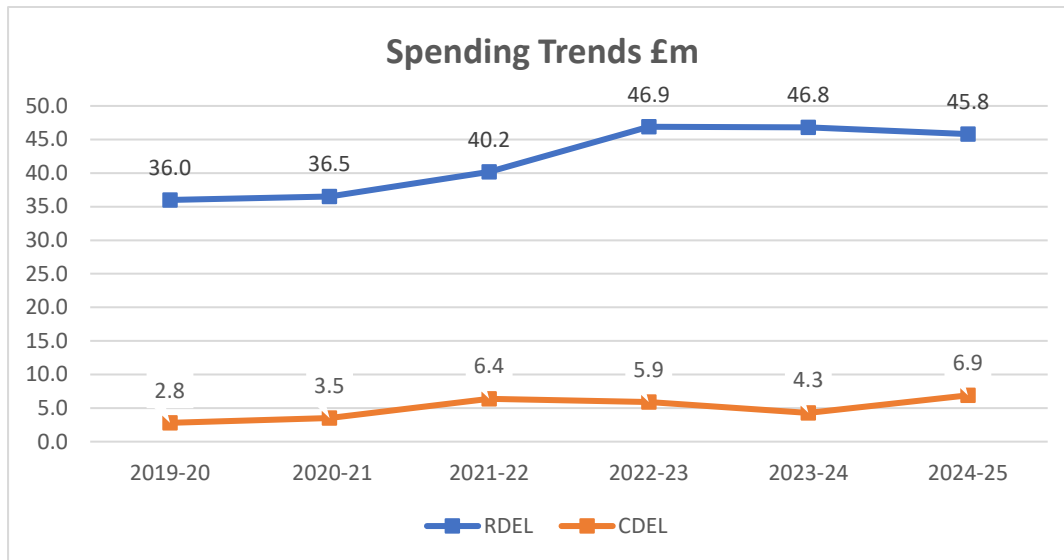
The CDEL budget was higher in 2022-23 to support the development of a new Learning Centre and to fund additional digital investment.

1.5 New policies and programmes; ambit changes

There are no new policies or programmes that require an update to the ambit.

1.6 Spending trends

The chart below shows overall resource DEL spending and income trends for the last four years, the funding sought for this year and the current future spending plans based on the 2021 Spending Review.



1.7 Administration costs and efficiency plans

| Spending total Amounts sought this year (Main Estimate 2023-24) | | Difference (+/-) compared to prior year final budget (Supplementary Estimate 2022-23) | | Difference (+/-) compared to prior year original budget (Main Estimate 2022-23) | |
|--|---------|--|-------|--|--------|
| | | £ m | % | £m | £ m |
| Administration costs | £ 10.8m | (£1.9m) | (15%) | (£0.8m) | (7.2%) |

Administration costs were higher in the 2022-23 final budget as an adjustment was made at the Supplementary Estimate to fund investment in a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, which will facilitate efficiencies across TNA's HR and Finance functions.

1.8 Funding: Spending Review and Budgets

The 2021 Spending Review provided a three-year funding settlement for the period to 31 March 2025. The funding agreed is set out below:

| Funding announced in the 2021 Spending Review. | 2022-23 Funding | 2023-24 Funding | 2024-25 Funding |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Resource DEL (excluding depreciation) | £38.7m | £38.8m | £38.8m |
| Capital DEL | £5.2m | £4.3m | £6.9m |

1.9 Other funding announcements

There have been no other additional funding announcements.

2. Spending detail

2.1 Ring fenced budgets

Within the totals, the following elements are ring fenced i.e., savings in these budgets may not be used to fund pressures on other budgets.

Resource DEL

| Ring fenced budgets Amounts sought this year (Main Estimate 2023-24) | | Difference (+/-) compared to prior year final budget (Supplementary Estimate 2022-23) | | Difference (+/-) compared to prior year original budget (Main Estimate 2022-23) | |
|---|-------|--|----------|--|------------|
| | | £ m | % | £m | £ m |
| Depreciation | £7.8m | £.02m | 2.6% | £0.2m | 2.6% |

3. Priorities and performance

3.1 How spending relates to objectives

Expenditure supports all of the objectives set out in section 1.1 above.

3.2 Measures of performance against each priority

The latest update of our performance against our business priorities is included in our 2021-22 annual report and accounts available [here](#).

4. Other information

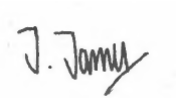
4.1 Additional specific information required by the Select Committee

No additional information has been requested by the Select Committee.

5. Accounting Officer Approval

This memorandum has been prepared according to the requirements and guidance set out by HM Treasury and the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit, available on the Scrutiny Unit website.

The information in this Estimates Memorandum has been approved by myself as Departmental Accounting Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "James".

Jeff James

Accounting Officer

The National Archives

10 May 2023