

ECO's Transparency in Export Licensing: [Discussion Paper](#) and [Government Response](#)

A summary of the responses by industry to the Government's questions on reporting requirements for open export licences.

Following the proposal by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills Vince Cable that all open export licences contain a provision requiring exporters to periodically report on transactions undertaken under these licences, HMG asked companies to answer several questions, the responses to which would inform its decision on the matter. In total, 105 replies were received, which represents about 5 per cent of the approximately 2,000 entities that apply for export licences each year. This summary presents the responses to the relevant questions on reporting requirements for open licences as well as HMG's responses.

Q1. What information do users consider should be collected and published?

A large majority of companies (54 out of 72) were content to provide a description of the items exported (including rating), the value or the quantity, and a destination. Therefore, and "given there was no overwhelming majority against providing at least some information about end-users", HMG decided to collect and publish information on:

- Rating;
- Description;
- Quantity or value;
- Destination;
- Generic information on end-user.

Q2. How often should the data be provided and/or published?

While a majority of companies (39 out of 69) expressed a preference for reporting at specified times (quarterly/six monthly/annual) and a significant proportion preferred to be able to report in real-time, HMG decided to make both options available (reporting possibly on a quarterly basis and in real time).

Q3. What would be the burden on exporters of providing data on item description, quantity and destination? If this could not be achieved within current resources please provide an indication of what extra resources would be required, including an estimate of the cost of providing them?

A majority of companies (50 out of 69) stated that such reporting requirements could be accommodated within existing resources or with only minimal additional resources, which HMG welcomed on the grounds that it sought to impose the minimum burden on exporters.

HMG concluded that "an increase in information reported may in the long term lead to a reduction in the burden in business. This is because the availability of detailed and comprehensive information on a company's use of open licences could facilitate less frequent and more structured compliance audits" – a view that it believes is broadly in agreement with that of industry.