Databases

Arising from the e-discussion and the follow-up discussion in the meeting, the AEG agreed the following in respect of own-account databases:

(a) databases holding data with a useful life of more than one year are fixed assets

(b) the value of the software component of databases, the DBMS, would normally be recorded elsewhere as a software asset

(c) the remaining value of the database should only include the costs involved in converting data from one medium/format to that required by the DBMS, including the application costs (adapting the software for a particular application, setting up the structure of the database, loading metadata, etc.), but should exclude the costs of acquiring the data themselves

(d) no maintenance is entailed with databases and all updating costs should be recorded as capital formation

(e) the value of databases should be estimated using a sum-of-costs approach, in the absence of a more satisfactory alternative.

The value of databases for sale includes the value of the information content.