

## 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.