



## OSCA to BEEDS Migration Q&A

Updated November 2021

### Background

#### **Q: Why is Statistical Reporting moving from XML to XBRL reporting format?**

A: In an attempt to improve simplicity and efficiency, many templates used to collect regulatory data are now designed using a standard method called 'Data Point Modelling'. This aims to create a single dictionary of terms, and unique identifiers for those terms. These are associated to data points in reporting templates, as well as defining the relationships between these data points and the validation rules that apply. The resulting Data Point Model (DPM) is represented using the eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL), and creates reporting taxonomies that software solutions can use to produce reports for regulators.

For a more detailed discussion on this topic, please refer to:

*Transforming Data Collection: Discussion Paper:* [Transforming data collection from the UK financial sector - Discussion Paper \(bankofengland.co.uk\)](https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/discussion-paper/transforming-data-collection-from-the-uk-financial-sector)

and

*Transforming Data Collection From the UK Financial Sector: a plan for 2021 and beyond:*

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/paper/2021/transforming-data-collection-from-the-uk-financial-sector-a-plan-for-2021-and-beyond>

### General BEEDS reporting

#### **Q: Where can I find more information about BEEDS?**

A: The BEEDS user guide can be found here <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/data-collection/beeds>

The user guide will be updated in advance of the initial testing window for statistical reporting.

If you have any questions relating to BEEDS, please contact [BEEDSQueries@bankofengland.co.uk](mailto:BEEDSQueries@bankofengland.co.uk)

#### **Q: Does BEEDS have the same functionality as OSCA?**

A: BEEDS is the Bank of England's strategic data collection platform and is used to collect many different datasets.

OSCA was designed to collect only statistical data so the two systems vary in functionality.

We receive a system update from the BEEDS vendor annually and are continually making changes to enhance the system. If you have particular changes you would like to see, please email us at [BEEDSQueries@bankofengland.co.uk](mailto:BEEDSQueries@bankofengland.co.uk).

We continually review the system and add changes/enhancements to our backlog of change.



**Q: Are the Bank of England moving away from box codes?**

A: Yes. Reporting is moving to a data centric (dimensional) approach rather than form-centric. In this approach, data points are described using a combination of a metric and one or more dimension-member pairs, instead of box codes.

To assist in the move away from box codes, we will publish mapping documents listing each data point signature, the table location(s) it is used in and the box code(s) in the old forms it relates to. We only intend to provide these mappings for Taxonomy 1.2.0 and will not maintain them for future taxonomy updates. These mappings are being prepared now that the taxonomy is final and will be published as soon as possible.

**Q: I already submit other collection on BEEDS, will I need a new log in?**

A: No, you will retain your existing email address and password and we will assign you access to the Statistical user role which will enable you to submit Statistical data for your Firm. Please ensure all users that require access are provided in the KeySurvey. For more information, please see [Statistical Notice 2021/10](#).

**Q: If we already use BEEDS to report a non-statistical return I assume the principal user just needs to add the BT, etc. reporter as a new user?**

A: Each collection will have its own Principal User. This may, or may not be the nominated Principal User for other data collections on BEEDS. Regardless of whether a Firm already uses BEEDS, each Firm that reports Statistical data must complete the KeySurvey and nominate your Principal User and Additional Users. For more information, please see [Statistical Notice 2021/10](#).

**Q: Will the Bank of England reference box codes when raising plausibility queries and confidentiality checks?**

A: The Bank of England will, in the interim, reference box codes as well as the row and column codes for the data point. Row and column codes can be identified in the annotated templates.

This is an interim measure and box codes will be withdrawn from these processes in the near future.

**Q: Is the Branch Return collection in scope of this project?**

A: Branch Return data is a regulatory data collection and is not in scope of this statistical project.

**Q: Will BEEDS have the same capabilities as OSCA where the returns are already listed for us and we do not have to add them each month ourselves?**

A: Yes, statistical returns will be created by the Bank of England, for Firms to upload their XBRL submission against.

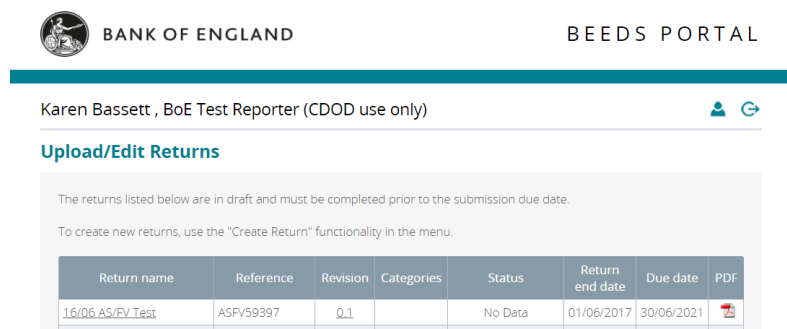


**Q: Will there be capabilities to manually type numbers/data in BEEDS?**

A: Unfortunately there will be no option to manually enter data directly in to BEEDS. Returns must be uploaded in an XBRL format.

**Q: Will the return due dates be shown on BEEDS?**

A: Yes, the due date for each return is shown in the Upload/Edit Returns menu. The Bank of England will continue to publish all return due dates for the year ahead on the website as we currently do in this schedule: [REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR STATISTICAL RETURNS - 2021](#)



**Q: Our branch at the moment does not use a vendor to report statistical data. We complete the Excel template, save as an xml file and upload to OSCA. Will I still be able to do this with the new system (BEEDS) or do I need to find a software vendor?**

A: Statistical data must be uploaded in an XBRL format and uploaded to BEEDS. It is at each reporter’s discretion as to whether they utilise the services of a software vendor.

The Bank intends to issue Excel templates as an alternative reporting format.. The Excel templates would be available for ALL Statistical forms.

Further details and timings of this submission route will be shared as soon as possible.

It remains the discretion of the Firm to utilise the services of a software vendor.

**Q: Is the Excel upload functionality the only alternative method available as an interface to BEEDS? Our current approach for the returns currently reported via BEEDS is to export an xml file from our reporting package and upload it to BEEDS. Will this approach be possible for migrated returns?**

A: When Statistical Reporting is Live on BEEDS, the Excel upload functionality will not be available within the 1<sup>st</sup> on boarding phase. When submitting Statistical Returns, BEEDS will accept an XBRL file only and not an XML file.

Once the Excel upload functionality is made available – timing TBC, BEEDS will accept an XBRL file as well as a file submitted via the Excel template that the Bank will make available.

Please note that only the Bank generated Excel file will be accepted and not Excel files created from other software packages.



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**Q: Will it be possible to upload the data to the BoE homepage as before? Will the data then be automatically transferred to the new XBRL format?**

A: When a user logs into BEEDS, during the 1<sup>st</sup> on boarding phase, only XBRL files will be accepted.

At a later stage, timing TBC – when the Excel upload functionality is made available, BEEDS will accept a file submitted in the Excel template, that the Bank will make available, and this file will be validated by the XBRL processor and the submission status/errors will be displayed in BEEDS.

Please note that only the Bank generated Excel file will be accepted and not Excel files created from other software packages.

**Q: For the excel reporting, does this mean that we can continue to generate our existing reports, download into excel, then upload via BEEDS (BEEDS to convert to XBRL?)**

A: No, BEEDS will not convert files to XBRL. The Bank will issue an Excel template for each Statistical Form and this will need to be completed manually and this template can be uploaded to BEEDS and validated by the XBRL processor.

Excel files created from other software packages will not be accepted.

**Q: Does BEEDS have two factor authentication?**

A: Yes, BEEDS has two factor authentication. This requires users to enter a code in to BEEDS, at the log in stage, that has been sent to a phone number (mobiles are recommended).

The two factor authentication on BEEDS is an important security feature.

Mobile phone numbers outside of the UK will also work with the two factor authentication.

**Q: During the first month(s) of migration to BEEDS, will there be a ‘backup’ submission solution in case there are issues – e.g. submission via OSCA or by email?**

A: OSCA is not being switched off until Q3 2022.

Therefore, if early migration to BEEDS is accepted by a Firm, this submission method should be consistently used going forward for future submissions, unless there is an issue. In which case OSCA could be used as the back-up solution i.e. there will be a period of parallel running.

Firms will need to be aware that if submitting via BEEDS or OSCA, these will both distribute to our internal systems and be considered “live” data.

**Q: Will BEEDS cross validate returns?**

A: Cross form validation rules have been added to the final Taxonomy 1.2.0 taxonomy package against the ‘all’ entry point. This is a change to the Public Working Drafts (PWD) shared and is to facilitate automated verification of these validations prior to uploading data into the BEEDS system.



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Cross form validations will not be displayed in BEEDS in the initial on boarding phase and can currently only be validated if you are using software to test against the 'all' entry point. The Bank of England will raise cross forms with Firms via email until a solution is in place to display cross form validation rules in BEEDS.

**Q: With the migration from OSCA to BEEDS, will there an API be made available in BEEDS to allow for direct submission from external software / a software house, for example from WIRES to BEEDS? Will our software house be able to connect with BEEDS?**

A: At present, there is no API functionality to connect BEEDS to external software.

This is on our development roadmap and is something the Bank intends to progress in the future.

**Q: Will OSCA be available for resubmissions?**

A: Once you have migrated to BEEDS, if a resubmission is required, beyond the date of your initial reporting period on BEEDS, the Bank will create a return for you to upload against for historical revisions.

There is functionality on BEEDS, to request a resubmission for the returns already submitted.

**Q: We understand that there are no changes proposed in reporting form content submitted on OSCA currently and the project involves only the format of forms to be changed from XML to XBRL. Please confirm?**

A: Correct. Reporting is migrating from XML to XBRL.

There are no additional reporting requirements or changes to the data required.

While reporting requirements remain unchanged for the OSCA to BEEDS migration, as a result of implementing the new taxonomy there are some key reporting points to note and it is imperative that Firms refer to the Release Note.

If there are any proposed updates to the Taxonomy, we will provide advance notice of these in a Statistical Notice.

We recommend that all Firms subscribe to Statistical Notices published on our website.

**Q: Will the Bank publish a utility solution, similar to Capital + reporting?**

A: No, the Bank will not be publishing utility software for collection of statistical data.

The Bank intends to issue Excel templates as an alternative reporting format. The Excel template would be loaded to BEEDS in place of an XBRL format and validated by the XBRL processor in the same way as an XBRL file.

The Excel templates would be available for ALL Statistical forms.

Further details and timings of this submission route will be shared as soon as possible.



**Q: Will my return be automatically submitted when I upload it to BEEDS?**

A: Files should only be uploaded when they are finalised and ready for legal submission. The returns are automatically uploaded once the Firm has selected the file (you don't need to go to Menu >returns > submit return menu). BEEDS then sends the submissions to an offline file processor for validation and the results are then returned to BEEDS. If the file is accepted and submitted to the Bank then the BEEDS external user will receive an email confirming the submission status. If, however, the submission fails validation, then no file is submitted to BEEDS and the return remains outstanding with a status of 'No data' – an email notification will advise of this and the validation failures can be reviewed on the BEEDS portal.

**Q: How will we view historical data uploaded in OSCA post migration?**

A: OSCA users should export their submissions from OSCA in Excel before they migrate to BEEDS.

**Q: Can you please tell us a bit more about the changes we can expect in BEEDS in the new release?**

A: Information on the new BEEDS release will be communicated shortly.

**Q: We already use BEEDS to submit other, non-Statistical returns. What happens to our Firm's existing BEEDS user and access?**

A: Existing BEEDS users will continue to use the same email username and password on BEEDS, and will be given access to the *Statistics* Collection on BEEDS to enable them to submit Statistical returns.

The nominated Principal User will be responsible for maintaining all Additional Users and their accounts after the initial on-boarding phase.

**Q: BEEDS currently gives limited feedback. Do you plan to make the feedback to reporters any more detailed?**

A: Most software for validating XBRL instances will highlight the exact data points which have caused errors. Within BEEDS the validation failure message will include the values reported to also assist with narrowing down which of the scope evaluations is relevant. Examples of these error messages and supporting information will be provided in the next update of this document shortly.

**Q: How can I view errors in BEEDS?**

A: Validation errors can be viewed by clicking on the warning triangle, shown in the status column of the Submission History screen.

Return name	Reference	Revision	Categories	Submitted date	Status	Return end date	PDF
CUTest1830	CU41070	16.0		29/06/2021	Accepted	31/12/2019	
BTLtest1826	BTL141069	17.0		29/06/2021	Accepted	30/06/2019	
AS test data 25/09	ASPV47378	2.0	as	22/04/2021	Accepted	31/12/2019	
05/03 BSTSE Test	BSTSE41133	5.0	CAPP	12/03/2020	Accepted	31/12/2019	
05/03 BST Test	BST41132	5.0	st003	12/03/2020	Accepted	31/12/2019	
Plausibility Response Annual	PRA47363	1.0	arg	22/09/2020	Accepted	31/12/2019	



Error display:



Stats II Additional User II , Stats Firm



File Upload Issues

This file was submitted with errors and/or warnings which are displayed below.

Type	Problem	Additional information
Error	Issue at line 8795 column 116, [BT_v0061]; [BT.01.01.01]; [scope ((t:BT.01.01.01,x:C0010,C0020,C0030)); ((t:BT.01.01.01,y:R0600,ov.0) <= (t:BT.01.01.01,y:R0590,ov.0))]	
Error	Issue at line 8970 column 117, [BT_v0061]; [BT.01.01.01]; [scope ((t:BT.01.01.01,x:C0010,C0020,C0030)); ((t:BT.01.01.01,y:R0600,ov.0) <= (t:BT.01.01.01,y:R0590,ov.0))]	
Error	Issue at line 9142 column 117, [BT_v0061]; [BT.01.01.01]; [scope ((t:BT.01.01.01,x:C0010,C0020,C0030)); ((t:BT.01.01.01,y:R0600,ov.0) <= (t:BT.01.01.01,y:R0590,ov.0))]	
Error	Issue at line 8859 column 119, [BT_v0046]; [BT.01.01.01]; [scope ((t:BT.01.01.01,x:C0010,C0020,C0030)); ((t:BT.01.01.01,y:R1240,ov.0) <= sum ((t:BT.01.01.01,y:R1250,R1260,R1270,R1280,R1290,ov.0)))]	
Error	Issue at line 9034 column 119, [BT_v0046]; [BT.01.01.01]; [scope ((t:BT.01.01.01,x:C0010,C0020,C0030)); ((t:BT.01.01.01,y:R1240,ov.0) <= sum ((t:BT.01.01.01,y:R1250,R1260,R1270,R1280,R1290,ov.0)))]	

Taxonomy

Q: We currently plan to upgrade our system to the latest taxonomy for all returns as part of phase 2 and not just perform an upgrade for the Form AS for March reporting as part of phase 1 as this will minimise the burden for us of testing our system on multiple occasions.

A: As the Release note states, Reporting of Forms AS and FV against taxonomy version 1.2.0 will be effective for Q1 2022 onwards. In April/May '22 when the first AS and FV returns are due, you will need to submit against the new taxonomy.

Returns submitted against the taxonomy version 1.1.0 will be rejected in BEEDS with an error.

Q: Should we assume the "Bank of England Statistics Annotated Templates v120" are the new format of the templates? Will these still need to be submitted separately, or altogether?

A: The annotated templates outline all templates defined in the taxonomy package in a consolidated view and outline what each of the entry points are. This follows the same structure as now, with each reporting form defined as an entry point.

Q: Can you please tell us the likely frequency of taxonomy changes going forward and whether the frequency will align with the supervisory taxonomy changes timelines (EBA)?

A: We will provide advance notice of any future updates to the taxonomy in a Statistical Notice. We recommend you subscribe to this service via the Bank's website.



**Q: Will we continue to report in thousands/millions?**

A: Reporting is expected to be in units for all forms. Previous reporting was requested in thousands or millions (depending on the specific form) but we are requiring reporting in units from the adoption of Taxonomy 1.2 onwards. This change provides consistency across all forms and for some will reduce the amount of manipulation required when preparing data submissions.

It is permitted to round values to maintain the same level of precision as reported prior to the adoption of the Bank of England Statistics taxonomy (accurate to thousands or millions). It is also permitted to report more precisely and report figures as known, for example accurate to units. The level of precision reported to must be communicated using the @decimals attribute. Further details about this attribute are provided in the accompanying filing manual.

## Testing

**Q: I would like to know when BEEDS will be available for testing**

A: The first UAT window is scheduled for November and further testing windows will be provided before each on boarding phase.

**Q: What criteria is used to determine which banks or building societies are in phase 1, phase 2 or phase 3?**

A: Participation in each of the on boarding phases will be voluntary (until phase 3 when all Firms will need to migrate to BEEDS).

Early on boarding is encouraged.

**Q: Does BEEDS have a permanent testing environment?**

A: At present, there is no permanent test environment for BEEDS.

A permanent test environment is planned for next year.

We aim to have more frequent and longer testing windows available in the interim.

**Q. Is there to be a wider testing window that will be made available to users in BEEDS following this to allow not just testing of Form DQ but subsequent forms to avoid a bottleneck around March?**

A. The BEEDS UAT window allows for testing of ALL Statistical forms – not just the DQ Form.

In the UAT environment, each firm will be granted access to a Statistics Group, which will allow access to ALL of our statistical forms. Firms will then be able to select and submit returns for ONLY the forms that they report. But the selection will be for ALL Statistical Forms and not only the DQ Form.





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### Reporting Identifiers

**Q: Will we continue to report using the same 4 digit OSCA code?**

A: We are moving away from using the reporting institution code as the Firm identifier for statistical reporting. Instead, the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) and Firm Reference Number (FRN) have been added as data points within the basic information template. Our strong preference is for a unique LEI to be used as the Firm identifier, with the FRN acting as an alternative in extraordinary circumstances only.

Please note we recommend that Firms have their own unique LEI, with branches using a separate LEI to that of the parent. The Branch LEI should be a UK based LEI.

Where a Firm does not currently hold a unique UK based LEI, one should be acquired by the Firm.

For more information please visit: <https://www.gleif.org/en/about-lei/get-an-lei-find-lei-issuing-organizations>.

**Q: We have two Firm references in OSCA, will there only be a single reference for all the returns we submit when on BEEDS?**

A: Firms that report on a Firm and Group level will be set up as individual reporting institutions.

Firms will be asked to report with a unique LEI for each reporting institution as outlined above.

Upon log in to BEEDS, Firms will have a dropdown menu to choose the Firm they wish to upload for.

### Software Houses

**Q: Are the Bank of England working with software houses to update software to create XBRL files?**

A: Yes, the Bank have been liaising with software houses since the publication of the Green Notice and they can inform you of their own timelines for readiness.

We asked software houses for feedback on the Public Working Draft.

**Q: We use a software house for reporting some returns, but have not used it to upload BT or ELS data. We are not sure if this software will have the capability to work with the new BEEDS system, are you able to confirm if it is compatible?**

A: We would advise you to contact your software house for their confirmation.

**Q: Do you have recommendations for software house vendors?**

A: At the moment, we cannot publish a recommended list as the software houses have not yet been able to test and prove their XBRL readiness for statistical reporting.



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On the Bank's website, there is a list of recognised software houses for statistical reporting purposes. Please note, this list is for XML reporting only.

Reporters can choose their preferred vendor, from a list of certified vendors which can be found on this site:

### XBRL Certified Software

This website has a list of software which hold a certification and advises that:

*"For the preparers of XBRL Reports, this list gives confidence that reports will be accepted and correctly understood by consumers including regulators."*

Please note: the Bank hasn't been involved in the creation of this list.