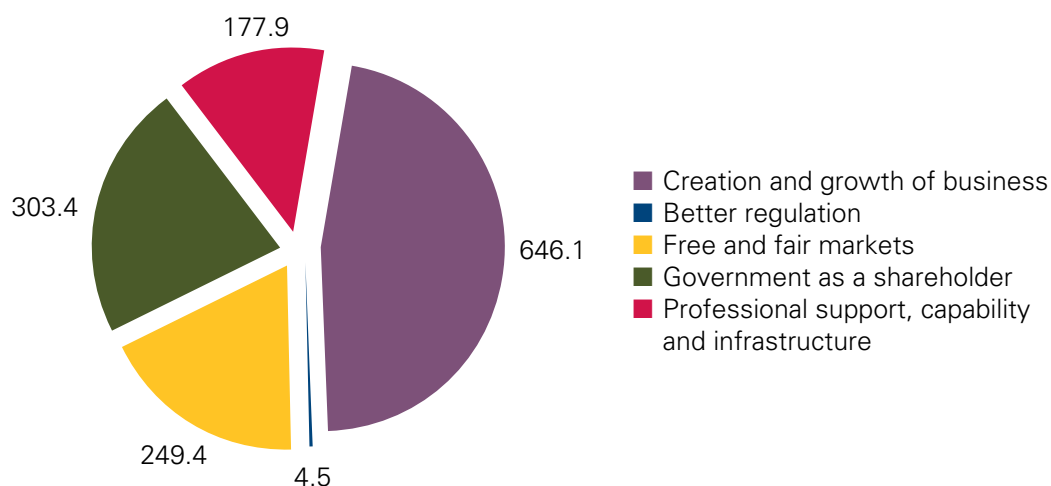


# Executive Summary

- 1 Successful enterprising businesses create wealth, help improve productivity and drive up UK competitiveness. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) led Government efforts throughout 2008-09 to help ensure business success in an increasingly competitive world. This meant taking exceptional and active measures to limit the impact of the economic downturn on the UK economy, and taking steps to prepare business to take advantage of the upturn and the opportunities that will arise from the new drivers for global economic growth.
- 2 During 2008-09 BERR provided a range of targeted support for businesses to help them through the recession more quickly, including access to finance and business advice, as part of the cross-Government Real Help Now programme.
- 3 *New Industry, New Jobs*, published in April 2009, is the Government's strategic vision for Britain's economic recovery. It aims to ensure that UK businesses and workers can compete successfully for the jobs of the future, and explains how Government is going to take a more active approach to building British competitiveness, growth and productivity, in order to create the best possible conditions in which UK businesses can thrive.
- 4 As part of this vision the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 5 June 2009, whose role is to build Britain's capabilities to compete in the global economy. The new department was created by merging BERR and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), to form a single department committed to leading the fight against the recession and building the conditions for future prosperity.
- 5 2008-09 was the first year of a new performance management framework for government departments. Public Service Agreements (PSAs) set out the key priority outcomes for Government. BERR led delivery of three cross-Government PSAs in 2008-09:
  - **PSA 1:** Raise the productivity of the UK economy;
  - **PSA 6:** Deliver the conditions for business success in the UK; and
  - **PSA 7:** Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions.
- 6 Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs) cover the full range of a department's activity. BERR had five DSOs in 2008-09:
  - **DSO 1:** Promote the creation and growth of business and a strong enterprise economy across all regions;

- **DSO 2:** Ensure that all government departments and agencies deliver better regulation for the private, public and third sectors;
  - **DSO 3:** Deliver free and fair markets, with greater competition, for businesses, consumers and employees;
  - **DSO 4<sup>1</sup>:** Ensure that Government acts as an effective and intelligent shareholder, and provide a source of excellent corporate finance expertise within Government; and
  - **DSO 5<sup>1</sup>:** Provide the professional support, capability and infrastructure to enable BERR's objectives and programmes to be successfully delivered.
- 7** All five of BERR's DSOs are assessed as showing strong progress, i.e. showing improvement in more than 50% of the indicators of which they are comprised. Two of the PSAs show some progress, and one is yet to be assessed as the data needed to measure progress is not yet available.
- 8** During 2008-09 BERR worked to increase the capability of the Department, improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our services. We were commended on progress made in our Capability Review, and achieved level two of the Investors in People Profile.
- 9** The Department continued to successfully deliver its objectives while deriving increasing value for money from its budgets. The Department delivered £69.5 million of value for money savings in 2008-09, against a target of £64 million, allowing budgets to reduce by over 3% in real terms from 2007-08.
- 10** In 2008-09, the total net expenditure of BERR against its Departmental Expenditure Limits, shown in the pie chart below, was £1,381 million. In 2008-09, the Department's Annually Managed Expenditure was £355 million.

#### BERR expenditure against Departmental Expenditure Limits by DSO 2008-09 (£ million)



<sup>1</sup> DSO 4 was numbered DSO 6, and DSO 5 numbered DSO 7, prior to the 3 October 2008 Machinery of Government changes, in which responsibility for two DSOs relating to energy security and supply and managing energy liabilities passed from BERR to the then newly created Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).