Information Commissioner's Office

Financial Report – February 2026

Executive Summary

This report sets out our financial position at the end of February 2026. We are currently forecasting a £4.9m year-end surplus as we have generated £6.8m more income than budget whilst costs have only increased by £1.9m.

On the income side we are forecast to:

- generate £2.7m of extra DP fees following successful campaigns to identify organisations that should register and pay registration fees;
- secure £2.6m of extra retainable fine recoveries following successful enforcement and recovery action that has recovered £18.7m of fines on behalf of the Consolidated Fund;
- receive extra funding from the Regulatory Innovation Office (RIO) and additional Grant in Aid (GIA) from DSIT, of which we have returned £0.9m in light of our favourable financial performance.

Summary Financial Performance - February 2026

Expenditure

The ICO has spent £90.8m year to date, 97% of the budget for this period. The variance of £2.9m is spread over several business areas.

Staff costs are £1.5m below budget. The staff vacancy rate was relatively high at the start of the year. Whilst staffing levels rose as the year progressed, this did not materially reduce the variance that built up in the early months.

Income

The ICO has received £101.7m of income to date and is now ahead of budget by £7.1m. DP Fee income is £3.1m ahead, due to continuing strong results from acquisitions and other campaigns. Fine retention income is £2.8m ahead following successful enforcement and recovery actions.

Risks and opportunities

We assess income shortfall risk as nil and believe there could be further potential upside in the final month of the year.

Several expenditure risks could impact on our final year end out-turn.

- Most of the Transformation portfolio is invested in Programmes but a significant part of budgeted expenditure remains unspent and is expected to be incurred in the final month.
- Around £2m of costs related to the Head Office move are expected to be incurred in the current financial year, a significant proportion of which is still to be spent in the final month. This may fluctuate as planning estimates and timelines for this major ongoing project are confirmed.

In relation to our £10.0m capital investment programme, £2.3m remains unspent at this stage. The majority relates to the Head Office move with medium confidence to spend.

Table 1: Consolidated Management Accounts	Year to date			Full year			
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance	2024/25
	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
DP FEE INCOME	86.0	89.1	3.1	95.3	98.0	2.7	73.8
GRANT IN AID AND GOVERNMENT FUNDING	6.8	7.8	1.0	7.5	7.8	0.3	17.1
FINE RETENTION INCOME	1.6	4.4	2.8	1.8	4.4	2.6	1.5
DRAWDOWN FROM RESERVES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER INCOME	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.5	1.2	0.7
TOTAL INCOME	**94.6**	**101.7**	**7.1**	**104.9**	**111.7**	**6.8**	**93.1**
STAFF COSTS	73.3	71.8	1.5	80.3	79.2	1.1	72.5
TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT	1.3	1.1	0.2	1.4	1.4	0.0	1.0
OFFICE COSTS (NON-CAPITAL)	3.6	3.3	0.3	3.9	3.8	0.1	3.6
IT COSTS (NON-CAPITAL)	5.6	5.6	0.0	6.3	6.9	-0.6	5.7
PROJECT SPEND (NON-CAPITAL)	2.6	1.6	1.0	4.8	3.0	1.8	1.3
COMMUNICATIONS	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2
FINANCIAL COSTS	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4
TRAVEL	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.8	-0.2	0.6
LEGAL, PROFESSIONAL & OTHER	3.6	3.6	0.0	4.2	5.8	-1.6	3.1
Sub-total	**91.5**	**88.3**	**3.2**	**102.4**	**101.7**	**0.7**	**88.4**
Capital Cash Spend - Lease rentals							
Office costs	1.4	1.5	-0.1	1.6	1.7	-0.1	1.3
IT costs	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.3
Total	**1.6**	**1.7**	**-0.1**	**1.8**	**2.0**	**-0.2**	**1.6**
Capital Cash Spend - Other							
Estates and IT	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.1	-0.9	0.8
Delivery	0.5	0.7	-0.2	0.5	2.0	-1.5	0.9
Total	**0.6**	**0.8**	**-0.2**	**0.7**	**3.1**	**-2.4**	**1.7**
TOTAL COSTS	**93.7**	**90.8**	**2.9**	**104.9**	**106.8**	**-1.9**	**91.7**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**0.9**	**10.9**	**10.0**	**0.0**	**4.9**	**4.9**	**1.4**