An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

CSO demonstration Local Authority controlled entities survey

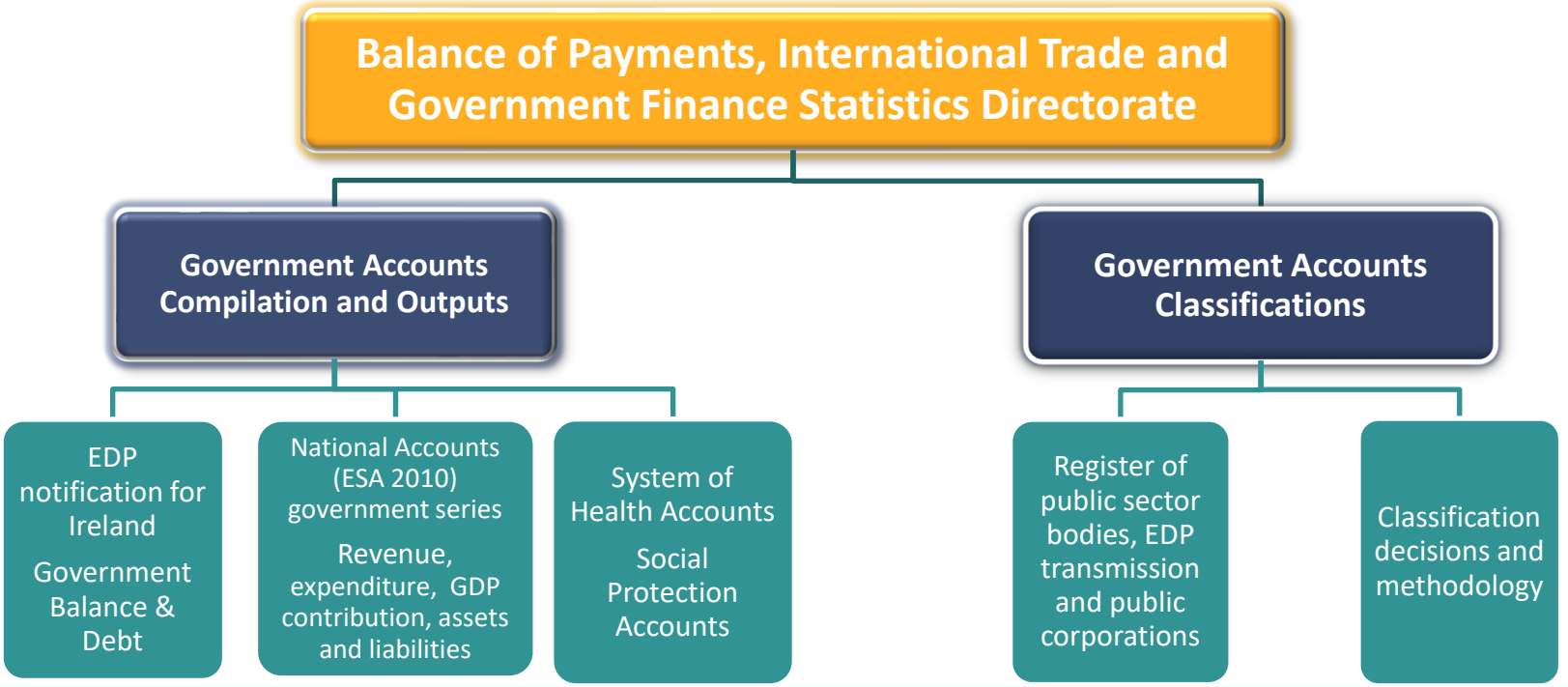
Government Accounts Classifications Division

29 April 2024

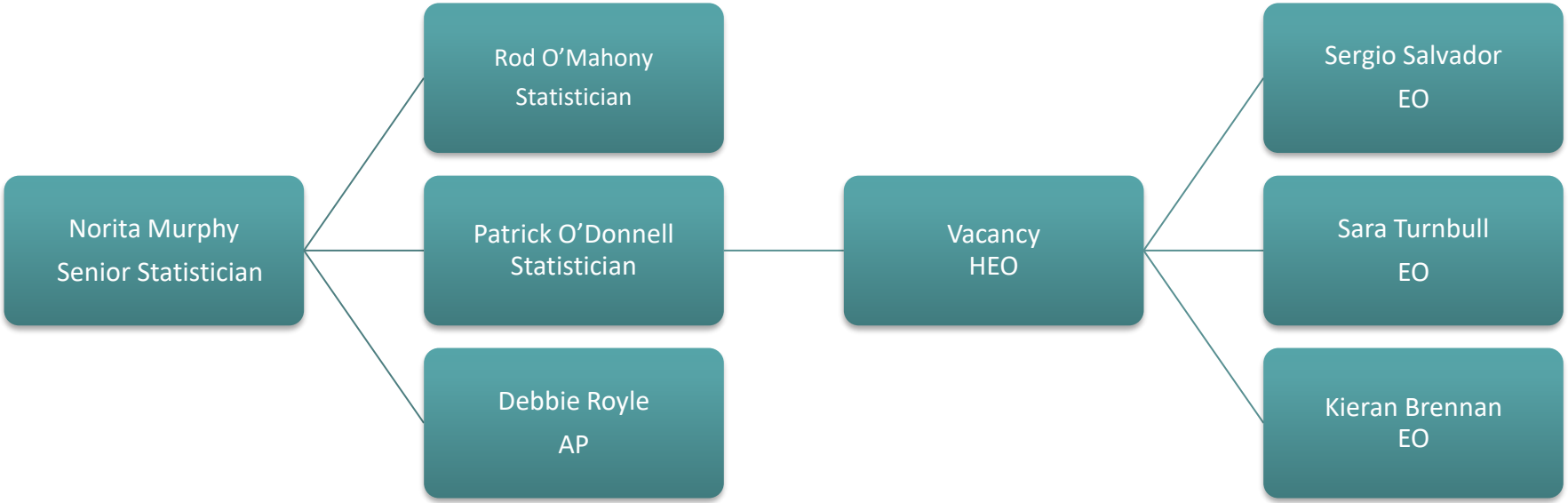
Government accounts in the CSO

- 2 Divisions
  - Government Accounts Classifications
    - What is “in” government?
    - Monitors developments in public sector bodies and reviews key government contracts including Public Private Partnerships for their classification
  - Government Accounts Compilation and Outputs
    - Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) and Government Finance Statistics (GFS)

Structure of Division - functions



Classifications Division



Statistical data and legislative requirements

The **CSO** is Ireland's National Statistical Institute (NSI)

- an independent office Statistics Act, 1993
- sole contact point for the Commission (Eurostat) on statistical matters

Eurostat is the "Community statistical authority" (Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 (as amended 2015))

- ensuring the production of consistent, high quality, European statistics including government accounts, using detailed accounting rules and guidelines
- significant audit powers –
  - data is scrutinised on a quarterly and biannual basis
  - Dialogue (audit) Visits to the CSO offices every two years (next one end May 2024)
- Local authority data always an area for scrutiny
- Action points arising from dialogue visits resulting in improvements in both LA returns via "B9 template" and continuing improvements in the LA entity data
  - DHLGH Assistant secretary communicated the importance of ensuring that the high-quality LA data is transmitted to the CSO and Eurostat

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Domestic Institutional Sectors

Irish National Economy

- Corporations
  - Non-Financial Corporations
  - Financial Corporations
- Government
  - Central
  - Local
  - Social Security Funds
- Households and Non-Profits
  - Households
  - Non-Profit Institutions

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Breakdown of Public Sector

878 Public Sector Bodies
508 General Government Bodies

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- Central Government Departments **18**
  - Non-Commercial Agencies **259**
  - Extra-Budgetary Funds **32**
  - Additional Votes **30**
  - Commercial Financial Corporations **59**
  - Commercial Non-Financial Corporations **247**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Regional Assemblies **3**
- Local Authorities **31**
  - Non-Commercial Agencies **81**
  - Commercial Financial Corporations **0**
  - Commercial Non-Financial Corporations **64**
- Approved Housing Bodies **51**

SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS

- Social Security Funds **3**

Classification of entities

Government Accounts Classifications Division determines the statistical classification of the entities by assessing factors such as:

- is it an institutional unit?
- does it receive government funding?
- the level of control the local authority has over the entity

Establishes the statistical classification for all entities under the aegis of local authorities

- Non-commercial agency under the aegis of Local Government (S.1313)
- Commercial non-financial corporation (S.11001)
- Commercial financial corporation (S.12001)

The classification criteria comply with detailed European rules and guidelines

Aims of local authority online survey (eQ)

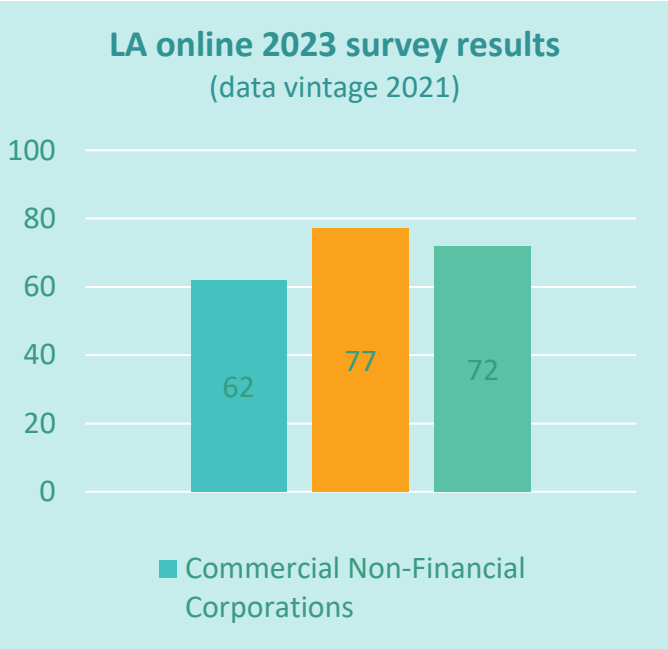
- To collect information of all entities under the aegis of local authorities
- Record any births and deaths within the financial year
- Assess local authority control using voting power (%)
- Analyse financial data for each entity
- Improve the timeliness of data from the current t+24 months to t+12 months
- All information legally required for national and European statistics

Benefits of eQ

- Individual eQ for each local authority
- Prefilled data, where possible
- Improve the timeliness of data
  - Central government eQ improved timeliness by 6 months
  - Aim to further improve the LA eQ
- Online eQ enables:
  - direct contact with relevant respondents
  - better breakdown of entities within the local authorities
- Positive feedback from users, quicker to complete, standardised terms

2023 survey

- 2023 was the first iteration of the LA online survey (eQ) covering 2021 financial data
- 100% response rate and significant improvement in data quality
- Some concern over the quality of aspects of the data
  - Consolidation status of the accounts of each entity
  - Income/expenditure/turnover figures for each entity
- These figures are necessary to complete a market (commercial) test and to accurately classify each entity as public/private
- Where data is not provided, entities will be classified in the local government sector
- Local Government chapter in Register of Public Sector Bodies 2023 - Provisional
  - Tables 4.1 – 4.3



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Survey Information

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Survey Released

30 April 2024

Drop-in Clinics

Date and Time tbc

Survey Deadline

17 May 2024

Survey link & booklet

URL Link to open survey - https://launch.survey.cso.ie/

Link to survey booklet - Local Authority - Survey Booklet

Survey booklet contains detailed instructions on how to complete survey

Please read survey booklet before completing survey

Survey booklet opens in a separate tab

Completing the survey

- Individual login and pin issued to relevant contacts within local authorities
- Local authorities with more than 15 entities listed issued with an A and B survey
- Information collected from previous surveys is pre-filled where possible
- All questions are mandatory, please select ‘999’ if question not applicable to move forward
- Please add any additional or new entities under the aegis of your local authority that are not being captured

Submitting the survey

Deadline to submit – **17 May 2024**

14 days to complete and submit – or data lost

Review and edit before submitting

Save and print after submitting within 5 minutes

Once the survey is submitted it cannot be changed

Please contact gfs_classifications@cso.ie with any queries or revisions

We may contact you to verify data

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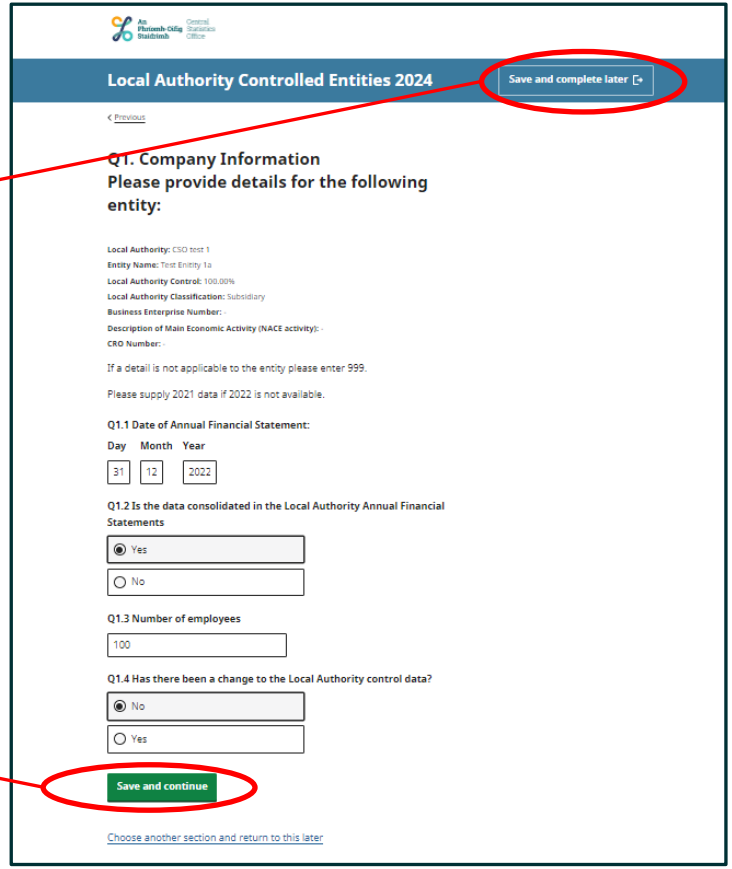
Demo of eQ

Saving the survey

- Save and complete allows you to exit the survey and save any answers already entered
- Please note this data can only be saved for up to 14 days
- Save and continue brings you to the next page of questions



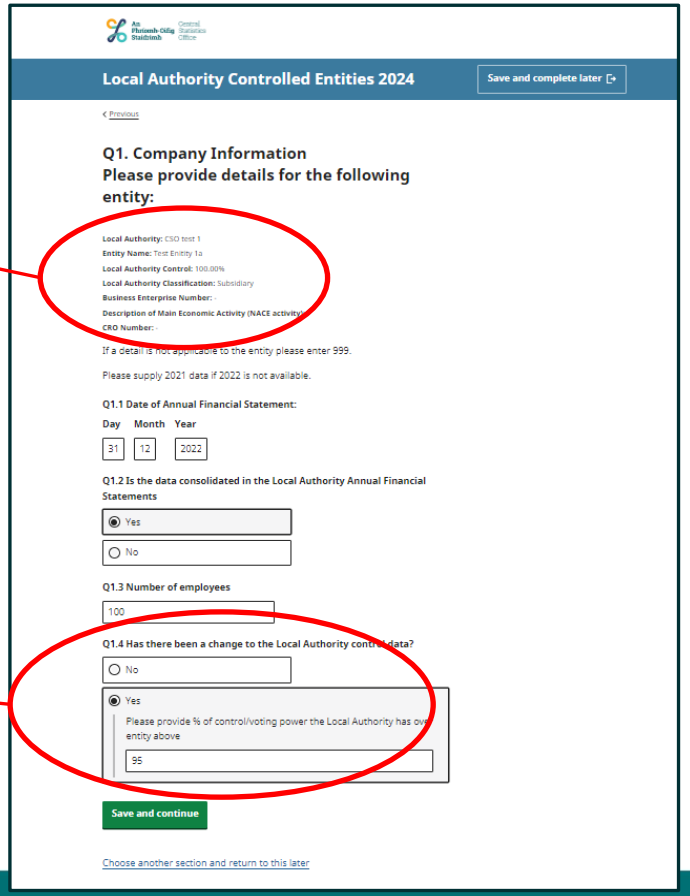
Pre-filled values

- Pre-filled values are displayed at the start of the survey

- These values have been updated based on last years survey returns

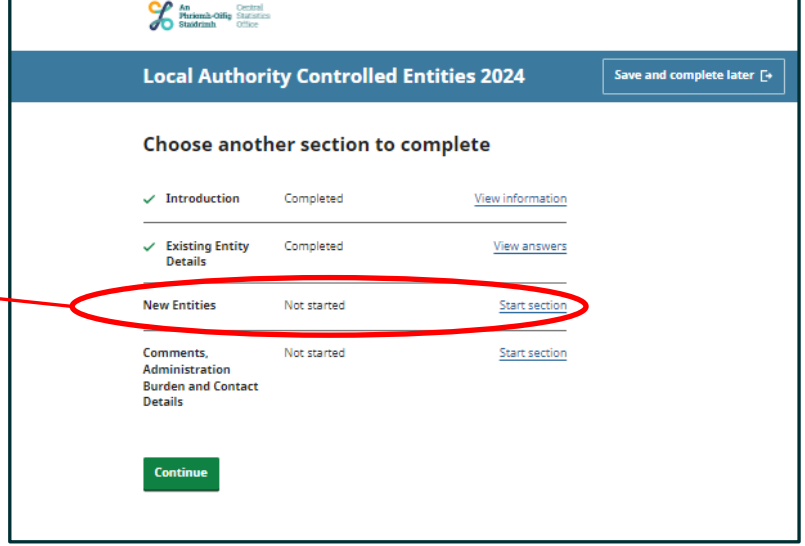
Control

- If there has been a change to the Local Authority Control. Please provide the updated level of control



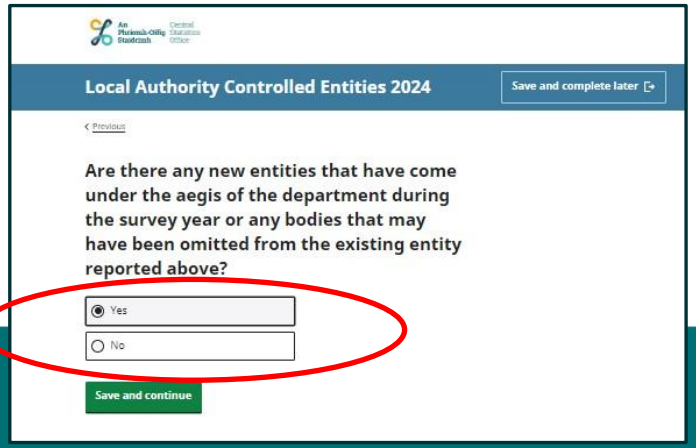
New Entities Section

- Once the existing entities section is completed, the new entities section will appear



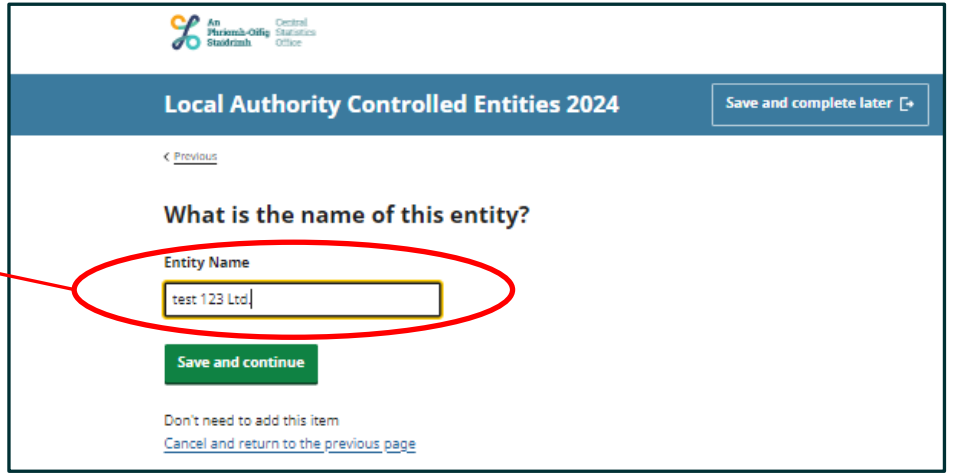
- If there is any new or omitted entities, please select 'Yes'

- If this does not apply, please select 'No' to skip

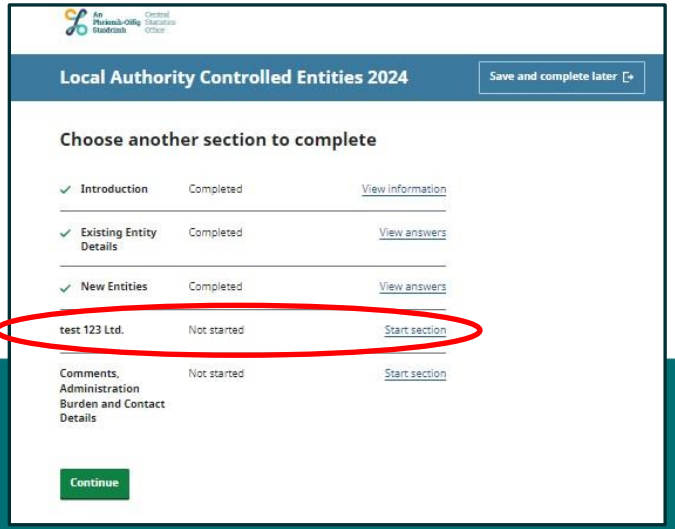


New Entities Section

- Enter the name of the new entity

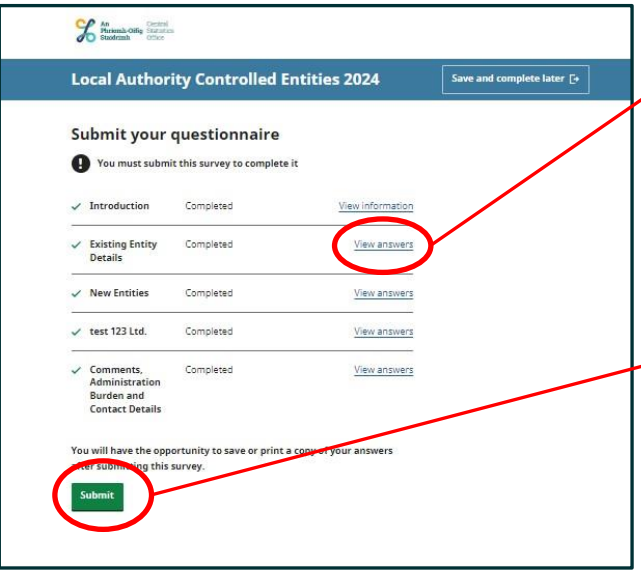


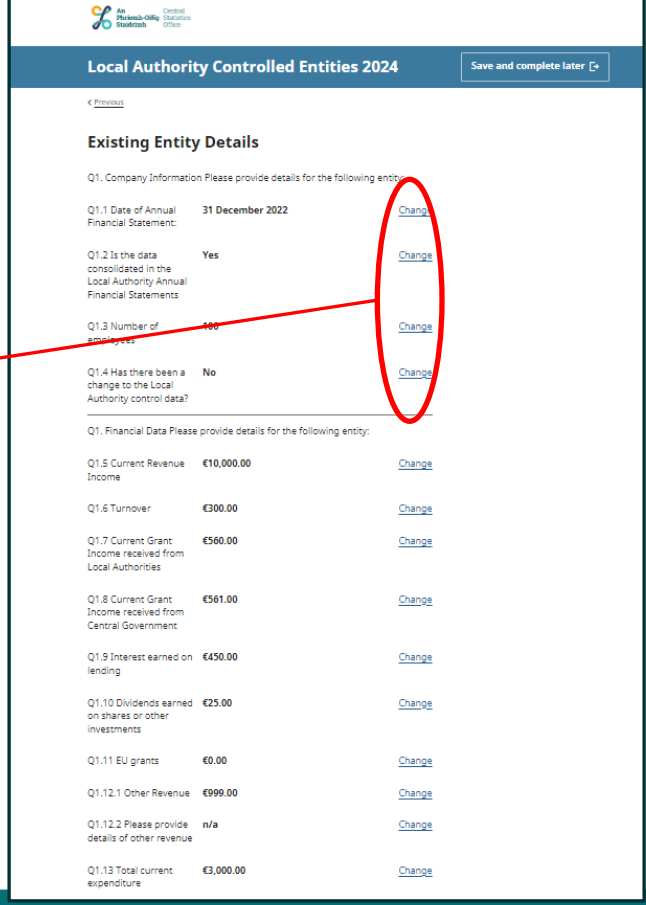
- The survey for the new entity is now available for completion



Reviewing your answers

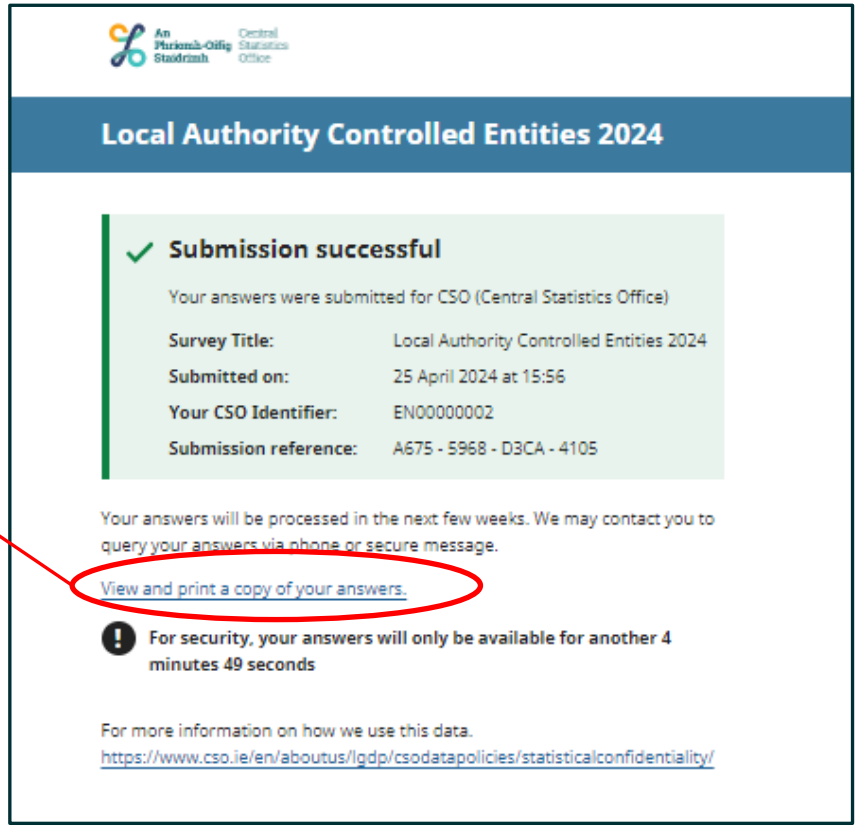
- Once the survey is completed you will have the option to review and edit any values
- Select ‘View answers’ to review followed by ‘Change’ to edit
- Once you are happy with your answers select ‘Submit’
- Please note it is not possible to edit your answers after submitting





Submitting the survey

- Once you have submitted your answers there is an opportunity to view, download and print a pdf copy of your answers
- We highly recommend doing this
- Please note that this option is only available within 5 minutes of submitting your answers



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Live Demo

Users of data include

- Eurostat
  - Transmission to Eurostat of all non-commercial agencies by NACE and by sub sector in March and October
  - Public corporation data on government-controlled units classified outside general government to Eurostat in December
- Published on **DPER** Open Data Portal
- Entities listed on the Department of Finance Statutory Instrument – General Government Secured Borrowings Order
- Central Bank - AnaCredit in Ireland | Central Bank of Ireland - Phase 1: Counterparty Data Reporting - register-of-government-body-identifiers.xlsx (live.com)

Contact Details

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CSO Government Accounts Classifications home page

Questions?