

Disclosures in financial reporting

1. Data protection policy

By completing this survey and submitting it to us you are taken as having agreed to our Information Statement (found here: <http://www.ifrs.org/Pages/InformationStatement.aspx>), our Privacy Statement (found here: <http://www.ifrs.org/Pages/PrivacyStatement.aspx>) and our Written Communications Policy (found here: <http://www.ifrs.org/The-organisation/Governance-and-accountability/Documents/IFRS-Written-Communication-Policy-October-2012.pdf>) which are available from our website. If you have any queries on any of these policies please contact us at info@ifrs.org.

Disclosures in financial reporting

2. About you

*1. How would you categorise yourself?

Preparer of financial reports

User of financial reports

Other (please specify)

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3. About you

*1. Please specify your industry

- Oil & Gas
- Basic Materials
- Industrials
- Consumer Goods
- Health Care
- Consumer Services
- Telecommunications
- Utilities
- Financials
- Technology
- Other (please specify)

*2. In which country are you based?

*3. What standards do you apply to your financial statements?

- IFRS
- US GAAP
- Other (please specify)

4. Please specify your total assets (as per your most recent annual financial statements) (please also specify the currency).

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6. Is there a disclosure problem?

*** 1. In terms of annual reports as a whole, do you think that there is a 'disclosure problem'?**

Yes

No

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8. Where in annual reports is there a 'disclosure problem'?

In this survey we ask questions about the annual report which includes:

- the "financial statements" such as the income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and note disclosures; and
- the "sections of the annual report excluding the financial statements" such as management commentary and remuneration reports.

1. Where do you think the 'disclosure problem' is located?

- Entirely in the financial statements
- Mostly in the financial statements
- Evenly spread throughout the annual report including the financial statements
- Mostly in the sections of the annual report excluding the financial statements
- Entirely in the sections of the annual report excluding the financial statements
- Don't know

Other comments

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9. Identifying the sources of the 'disclosure problem'

Many people have told the IASB that the main sources of the 'disclosure problem' are:

- Not enough relevant information (question 7)
- Too much irrelevant information (question 8)
- Poor communication (question 9)

The next questions will ask your opinions on these potential sources.

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10. Not enough relevant information

1. A source of the 'disclosure problem' in the annual report is:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Not enough relevant information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. The causes are:

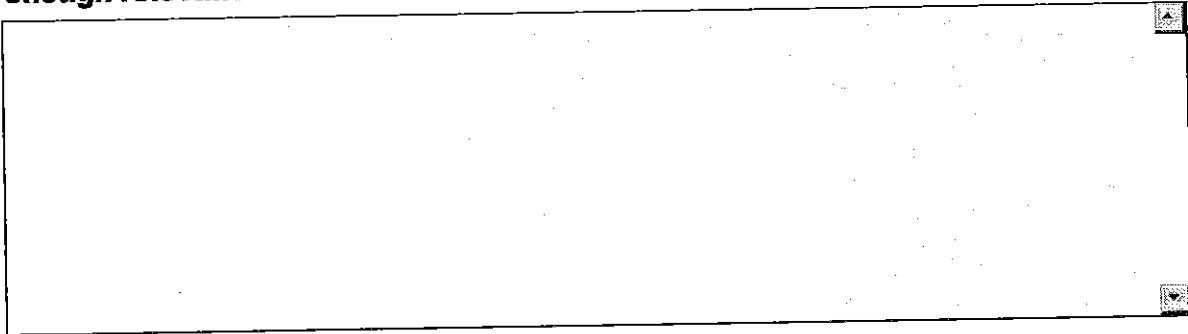
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Information I think is important is not specifically required by accounting standards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preparers do not disclose more than what is explicitly required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auditors do not allow disclosure of information not explicitly required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information I think is important is not specifically required by regulators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Users do not make preparers aware of what disclosures they consider to be important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

3. If you answered "agree" or "strongly agree" please provide example(s) of where this is most evident

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4. Do you have any suggestions for how to address the problem of there not being enough relevant information?



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11. Too much irrelevant information

1. A source of the 'disclosure problem' in annual reports is:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Too much irrelevant information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

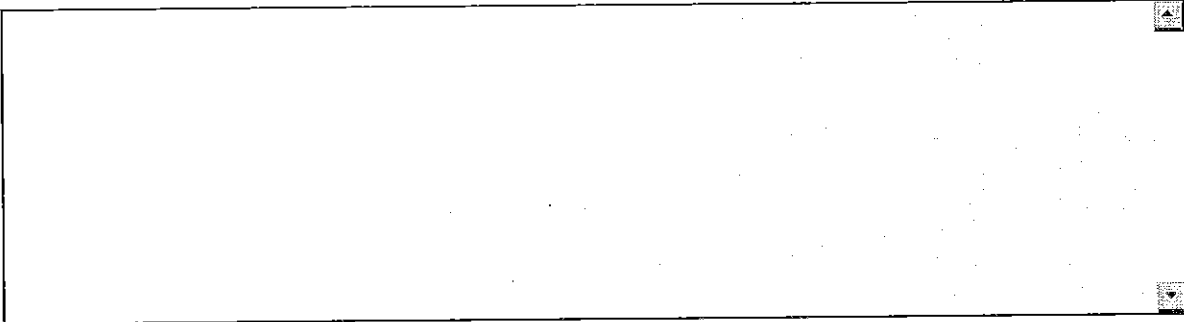
2. The causes are:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Some information required by accounting standards is never relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accounting standards are not clear enough on the application of materiality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The operational burden of financial reporting encourages preparers to take a 'checklist' approach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preparers include irrelevant information to minimise litigation risk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auditors require accounting standards disclosures to be applied like a 'checklist'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regulators require disclosures to be applied like a 'checklist'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some information required by regulators is never relevant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is an overlap between regulatory and accounting standards disclosure requirements, resulting in duplication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Materiality is not being applied correctly by all parties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Users always seem to ask for more information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

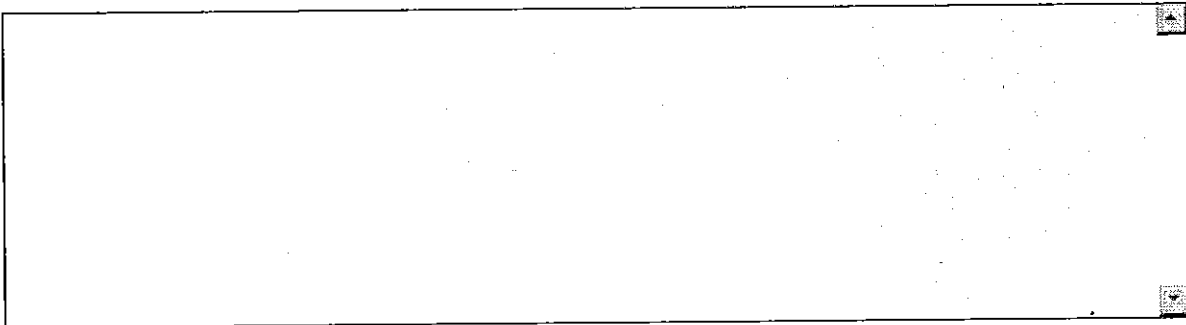
Other (please specify)

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3. If you answered "agree" or "strongly agree" please provide example(s) of where this is most evident



4. Do you have any suggestions for how to address the problem of there being too much irrelevant information?



Disclosures in financial reporting

12. Disclosures are poorly communicated

1. A source of the 'disclosure problem' in annual reports is:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Poor communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Types of poor communication that are a cause of the 'disclosure problem' include:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Disclosures throughout the annual report are not linked or connected	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disclosures include unnecessarily complex language and jargon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Form of disclosures make them difficult to follow (eg insufficient use of tables/graphics)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The order of disclosures does not reflect priority or importance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is overlap/duplication of disclosures throughout the annual report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disclosures do not 'tell a story'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other types of poor communication

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3. The causes are:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Indifferent	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
The requirements in accounting standards result in disclosures that are unnecessarily complex and difficult to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regulatory requirements result in disclosures that are unnecessarily complex and difficult to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The preparer's primary objective is to meet the disclosure requirements rather than 'telling a story'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The auditor's primary objective is to ensure the reporting entity meets the disclosure requirements rather than 'telling a story'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Users have not asked preparers to change the way in which they present the information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

4. If you answered "agree" or "strongly agree" please provide example(s) of where this is most evident

5. Do you have any suggestions for how to address the problem of poor communication?

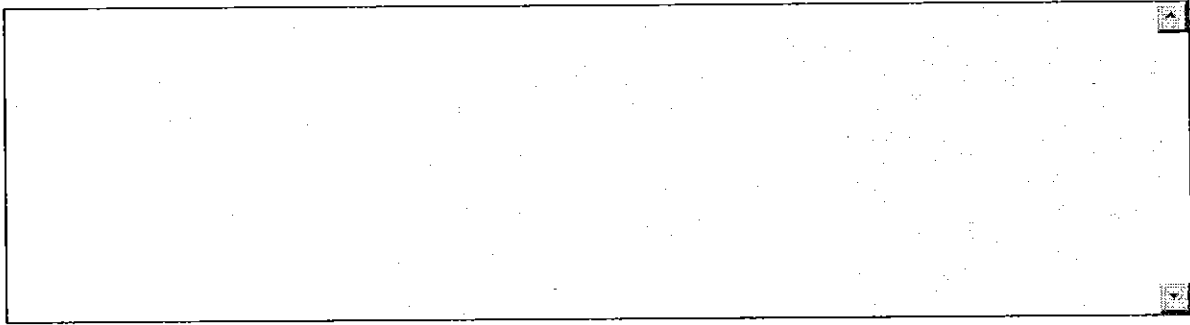
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20. Other sources of the 'disclosure problem'

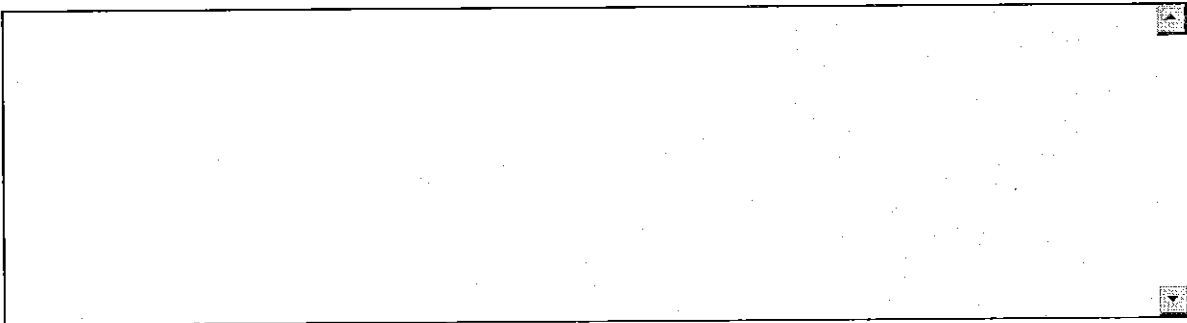
1. Have you identified other sources of the 'disclosure problem' not mentioned in this survey?

No

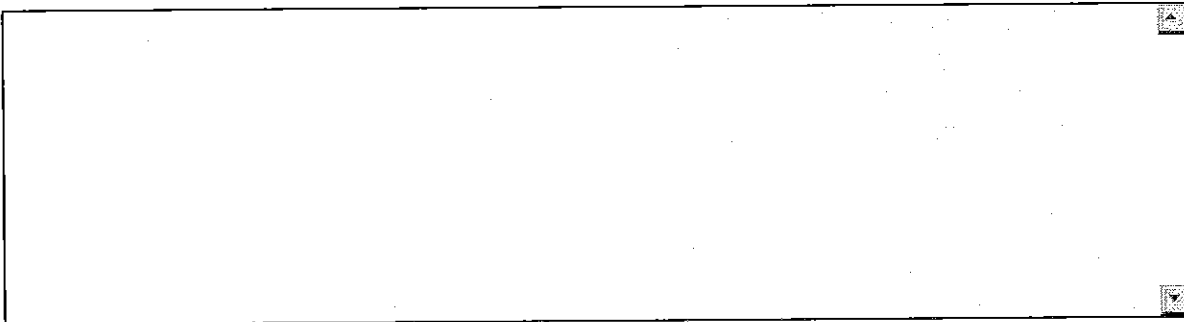
Yes



2. What do you think are the causes of those sources of the 'disclosure problem' you have identified?

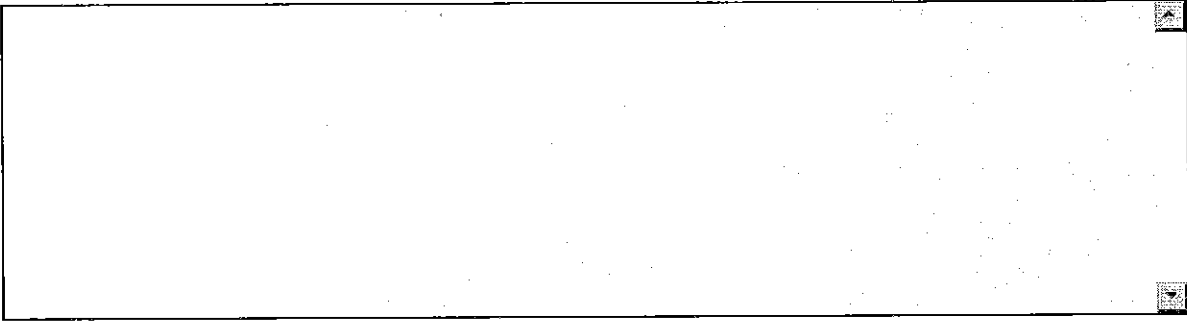


3. Please provide examples of where this is most evident



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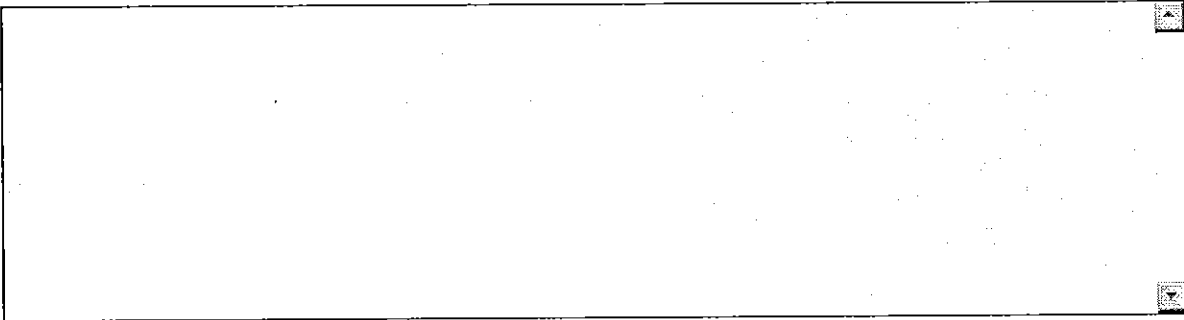
4. Do you have any suggestions for how to address these additional sources of the 'disclosure problem'?



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21. Any other comments

1. Do you have any other comments?

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22. Optional information

Optional information

1. If we have any questions on your responses would you be willing to discuss your responses with us individually? If so, please provide your name and e-mail address.

2. Please provide your company's name.

Thank you for completing this survey.