Bank of England

Bank of England Branch Return – Common problems and queries

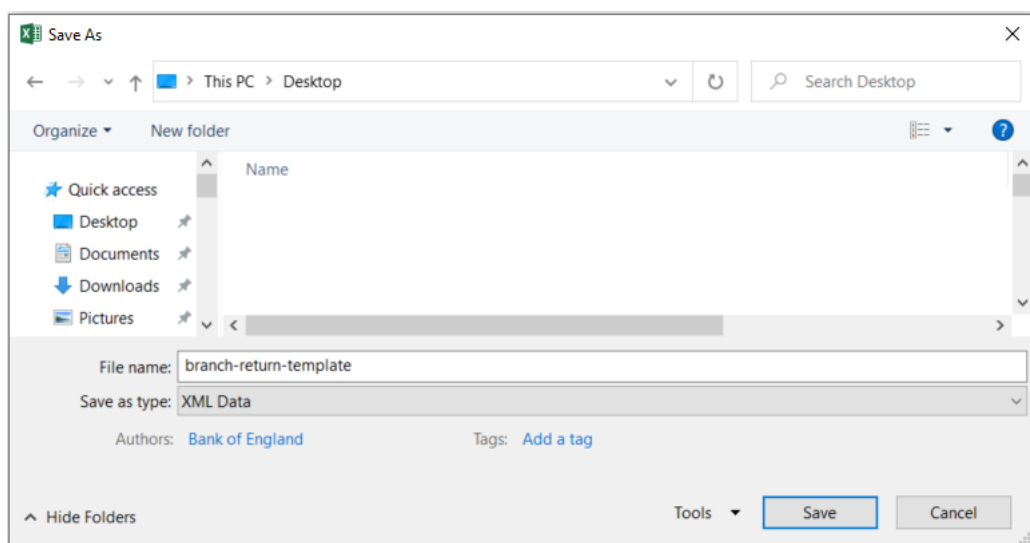18 March 2022

Where to find the latest template

The latest template that should be used to submit your data can be found on [this webpage](#).

A new template must be downloaded when a new version is released and used from the effective date.

How to generate an XML file from the Excel template

To generate the XML file from the Excel template, the following steps are to be used:

1. Download the latest Excel template.
2. Complete all reportable fields as appropriate. Numeric fields reflecting monetary values permit a maximum of 2 decimal places, and other numeric fields are restricted to integers. As per the guidance, do not complete greyed out fields.
3. Once the data is complete save the file as 'XML Data'. **N.B. Take care not to select 'XML spreadsheet 2003' or 'Strict Open XML Spreadsheet' by mistake.**
   i. Within Excel select File – Save As… and the Save As window will appear.
   ii. Use the dropdown option 'Save as type' to select 'XML Data'.
   iii. Choose the appropriate file name and location to save the file and select 'Save'.
   iv. The generated XML file can be uploaded to the BEEDS portal for submitting. Reporting the Excel template is not permitted in BEEDS.

N.B. It is not supported to export to 'XML Data' using a MacBook. Using the Excel file and generating an XML template is only supported when using a Windows PC.

Common error messages

1. Workbook does not contain any XML mappings

Example error message: *'Cannot save XML data because the workbook does not contain any XML mappings'.*

The mappings within the spreadsheet you are using have been removed, please download the template again from this webpage.

2. Value is invalid according to its datatype (numeric example)

Example error message: *"At line 32, position 26, "The 'urn:boe:branch:xsd:Total' element is invalid - The value '-123456' is invalid according to its datatype 'urn:boe:branch:xsd:NumberNonNeg2dp' - The MinInclusive constraint failed.*

A negative value has been provided for a data point where a value greater than or equal to zero is expected.

- **"At line 32, position 26,** – if you open your XML file in a text editor such as Notepad this is the location within the file where the error has occurred.
- **"The 'urn:boe:branch:xsd:Total' element is invalid** – this is the element which has caused the error. The name given to elements in the schema aligns to the form row labels (sometimes written in shorthand).
- **The value '-123456' is invalid** – this is the value that has been reported for the element which is causing the error.
- **according to its datatype 'urn:boe:branch:xsd:NumberNonNeg2dp' - The MinInclusive constraint failed** – this is the data type assigned to the element within the schema. The data type outlines the type of data expected (decimal, date, Boolean, number etc.) and constraints may be placed on the data type to further restrict allowed values. In this instance the data type NumberNonNeg2dp (the name suggests the nature of the data) has a restriction to only allow values greater than or equal to zero; the value reported breaks this restriction.

3. Value is invalid according to its datatype (enumeration example)

Example error message: *"At line 420, position 22, "The 'urn:boe:branch:xsd:UKFMI1' element is invalid – The value 'yes' is invalid according to its datatype 'urn:boe:branch:xsd:YesNo' – The Enumeration constraint failed.*

This is similar to the error explained in detail above. Again the data provided does not match the data type for the schema element. In this instance a value of 'yes' has been provided where the datatype only allows 'Yes' or 'No'. Validation is case sensitive.

4. Element is invalid according to its datatype

Example error message: *"At line 4, position 4, "The 'urn:boe:branch:xsd:SubmissionNumber' element is invalid – The value '' is invalid according to its datatype 'urn:boe:branch:xsd:NumberNonNeg2dp' – The string '' is not a valid Decimal value.*

This is similar to the error explained in detail above. Again the data provided does not match the data type for the schema element. In this instance an empty string has been reported; a numeric value with a maximum of 2 decimal places is expected.

5. Incorrect encoding method

Example error message: *System does not support 'ANSI' encoding. Line 1, position 31.*

Files must be encoded using UTF-8.

6. Incorrect template version used

Example error message: *"At line 79, position 4, "The element 'Deposits' in namespace 'urn:boe:branch:xsd' has invalid child element 'TotalDeposits' in namespace 'urn:boe:branch:xsd'. List of possible elements expected: 'Total' in namespace 'urn:boe:branch:xsd'.*

When new versions of the template are published changes may also be made to the schema to ensure consistency. Ensure you use the correct template published on this webpage for the reference data you are preparing data against.

In this instance, the template version 1.1 has been used for reporting December 2021 data but the changes outlined in PS25/21 are effective from 31 May 2022. Therefore template version 1.0 should have been used.

Reporting for effective dates from 31 May 2022 onwards must use template version 1.1 otherwise similar error messages will occur.

When your XML file is loaded into BEEDS there are checks to ensure the file is conformant to the schema version valid at that reference date. By downloading the correct template version from this webpage you can ensure these checks pass.

7. Mandatory field not reported

Example error message: *"At line 5, position 4, "The 'urn:boe:branch:xsd:FirmReferenceNumber' element is invalid – The value '' is invalid according to its datatype 'Decimal' – The Pattern constraint failed.*

A value has not been provided for a mandatory field. In the Excel spreadsheet no value was provided for Firm Reference Number and so the generated XML file has created an element with no content which breaks the restrictions placed on the element.

Ensure all mandatory fields are completed.