



BANK OF ENGLAND

Frequently Asked Questions on Sterling Money Market Data Collection

Managed File Transfer (MFT)

For form SMMD (daily)

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MFT – Frequently Asked Questions

If your question is not answered below, please do not hesitate to contact the Bank.

In the event of queries related to transmission arrangements queries, the primary point of contact will be the Chief Data Office division of the Bank, via email to

cdodsmm@bankofengland.co.uk.

MFT Go-live

1. The hosts are not accessible over the internet. Do you have any calendar date for the setup of https portal / MFT?

The Bank currently expects the Test and Live MFT environments to be ready for reporter on-boarding by the beginning of November; however this is not yet certain. We anticipate providing further guidance towards the end of September but, for the time being, access is blocked by a whitelist.

2. Can the Bank provide greater detail regarding the challenges in the MFT implementation?

We cannot give out specific reasons for the delay but we did not wish to roll out anything without a full test and regression cycle so we can be confident it is fit for purpose.

3. The MFT platform is a web based portal. Is there a piece of Bank developed software that can be downloaded in order to execute uploads / downloads on a reporter's machine?

The MFT solution is a commercial product that includes SFTP services and HTTPS portal services sharing the same backend data platform. In the short term we will not be switching on the HTTPS portal. None of the platform is based upon bespoke BoE development.

4. Do we need to self-certify before going live?

Yes, we have also devised a small range of tests that should be carried out in UAT as well as sending a NOTX to live before any further live submissions. These are located in Annex 3 of the Technical Instructions for the Submission of Form SMMD¹.

¹ http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/Documents/reporters/defs/instructions_smmd_combined.zip

5. Do you have documents to share about the https portal business requirement document?

No, but these will be issued in the future.

IP Whitelist and Public Keys

6. Can a subnet with a mask be used for the IP whitelist?

No, we require specific host IP addresses and not IP ranges. These can be the same or different for secured and unsecured just as it could be the same or different for UAT and live depending on your infrastructure.

7. How long after supplying IP info will we get a response regarding account information?

The Bank will be providing an update no later than 30th September stating when we will be providing account details. However, the provision of usernames is dependent upon the reporter supplying the required information.

8. Are the public keys and passwords fixed?

No, the public keys will expire annually. The Bank's stance regarding passwords is not confirmed at this time but they will be subject to expiration. The process for expiration is also yet to be confirmed, however, we are keen to avoid all reporters' passwords and public keys expiring simultaneously. We will issue firm guidance on this in the future.

9. How many public keys are required and for what purpose?

The Bank expects a maximum of 4 unique public keys to be provided, one for each submission type (Secured UAT subs, Secure Live subs, Unsecured UAT Subs, Unsecured Live Subs).

Naming Conventions

10. Are there standard outbound naming conventions available?

The outbound naming convention is located in Annex 2 of the Technical Instructions for the Submission of Form SMMD²..

² http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/Documents/reporters/defs/instructions_smmd_combined.zip

11. In the case of a .csv file being delivered, does the naming convention of the .csv file differ depending on the type of .csv file?

The basic naming convention is the same, however, the metadata will be different depending on whether the submission is secured or unsecured. This is covered more in Annex 2 of the Technical Instructions for the Submission of Form SMMD.

Sending and Receiving Files

12. Can we get an Application Programming Interface (API) instead of .txt/.csv files on an SFTP server?

As it stands the SFTP method of machine-to-machine transfer will be the only one the Bank is implementing. API has not been entirely discounted; however, it is not currently in scope of the project.

13. In the event of issues (Bank side or reporter side) what is the alternative to MFT file submission?

The current secure email solution will remain an option but the expectation is that it will not be required often, if at all. The use of it will be monitored.

14. Can multiple files be downloaded / uploaded per day?

The requirement is for one end-of-day file per market segment and legal entity. This ensures that once a file is received, the Bank can assume that the reporter has completed its reporting for the day.

That said, the system can process multiple files in one day, so where amendments, corrections, or cancellations are sent, these will be processed in real-time regardless of whether a file has already been received.

15. How are amendments and corrections submitted?

It should be done in the same way you submitted your first submission so via SFTP.

16. For how long will submission files be archived?

All sourced files will be archived permanently but will not be available to reporters.

17. If a non-supported file (e.g. data.zip) is uploaded, when it is deleted?

It will be deleted at a scheduled time.

18. Will submissions be processed sequentially?

Yes, files are processed as they arrive and if multiple files are submitted at the same time they will be further sorted by the BAH creation date in order to keep sequence.

19. Does the system prevent the upload of files larger than 20MB?

No, the Bank of England has not restricted the file size of the inbound files, which can be much larger than the 20MB limits imposed by email.

20. When an .xml file has been submitted, how do the .csv and .txt response files relate to it?

There will be metadata in the filename and a reference in the file content.

21. How long do we need to wait for a response after submitting a file?

The Bank expects the solution to respond to 90% of submissions within 15 minutes and 99% within 60 minutes. These estimates will be reviewed once the solution is in use, based on actual response times experienced.

22. Should we anticipate receiving a .txt file on the SFTP server and will templates be available?

Yes, and we will be supplying the format of the content and the naming convention in the near future. The content is the same as the email messages currently received.

23. Currently, when a submission is complete an email is received with no attachment, indicating the file was successfully processed. How will this be managed in the SFTP response?

There will be a text file containing the same content as you would expect in the current "success" email.

24. Are .part files converted to .xml?

No. Any extension other than .xml will be ignored by the solution and purged after a set period of time.

25. What happens after I have submitted an .xml file?

The response .csv and .txt files are a product of the validation checking of the uploaded .xml file. These files will be present in the outbound folder and the inbound folder will subsequently be empty as the .xml file has been processed.

26. How does the response file workflow operate?

The Bank will process the file then upload any responses such as checksums and errors to the "outbound" directory location for a firm to collect. The process is depicted in section 2.4 of the documentation.

27. Can we manually download the response file?

Yes, if you use the manual download over SFTP process as described in the documentation in Section 8.

28. Can the Bank upload the response files to our servers?

No, the same method is in place for all firms meaning you must manually collect the response files from the Bank as per the instructions document.

29. Will a .csv response file continue to be sent by secure email?

We will continue to send responses via email to the contacts that we already have listed in the system as well as presenting them as files on the MFT platform

30. If a .txt file is submitted using MFT does the Bank intend to send us a response file in the ISO 20022 format?

There is currently no plan to change this to be an ISO 20022 XML response message.

31. Can we anticipate a similar submission response time with MFT compared to that of secured email?

Yes, although the MFT solution allows the Bank more control over file submission and delivery. The underlying processing is the same so in reality we would expect the MFT submissions to be processed with similar response rates but cannot guarantee this.

32. Is the .txt file delivered at the same time as the corresponding .txt file on the SFTP server? If not, are there strict SLAs that define when we can expect the .csv file?

The .csv and .txt responses will be independent of each other and will not necessarily arrive at the same time. Our aim is for 90% of files to be processed within 30 minutes and 99% files within 60 minutes.

33. Under any circumstances can we anticipate not receiving a .txt or .csv file?

There is no scenario in which a .txt file should not be received so, if a period of time of passed in which you would reasonably have expected to receive such a file, please contact the Chief Data Office. If the file submission is correct and has no warnings you won't receive a .csv file.

34. Are there any working examples of the response files?

Submission responses will be sent via email and a .txt file will be accessible on MFT, examples of which will be available on the Bank website in the near future.

35. Will the SFTP response file follow the same format of the response file we receive currently via e-mail?

Yes, formatting will be the same as the current emails.

Points of Contact

36. Who is the production contact in BOE?

This will continue to be the Chief Data Office which can be contacted directly using email address cdodsmm@bankofengland.co.uk, and telephone number 0203 461 6416.

37. If we encounter problems with the reporting, what is the level of communication required?

In the first instance contact the Banks Chief Data Office. They will act as a liaison between yourself and the Banks technical teams to resolve any issues.

38. What is the purpose of the user setup email addresses?

Information relating to the MFT account will be sent to these email addresses. It is required as part of the user configuration and needs to be unique to each submission type and environment. Optionally we can also send the submission responses to the same address if this is preferable.