
IASB[®] meeting

Date	February 2025
Project	Intangible Assets
Topic	Surveys—background
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This paper has been prepared for discussion at a public meeting of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). This paper does not represent the views of the IASB or any individual IASB member. Any comments in the paper do not purport to set out what would be an acceptable or unacceptable application of IFRS[®] Accounting Standards. The IASB's technical decisions are made in public and are reported in the IASB[®] *Update*.

Purpose

1. This paper provides background information about the surveys distributed to users of financial statements and other stakeholders and includes copies of the surveys in [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#).
2. This paper is for information purposes only.

Background

3. On 31 October 2024 we launched two surveys—for users of financial statements and for other stakeholders—to obtain feedback on the information about intangibles currently provided in financial statements and on the problem to be solved in the Intangible Assets project, the scope of the project and the approach to work.
4. The surveys were designed to be completed within 20 minutes. They mostly comprised closed-ended multiple-choice and rating questions. Some multiple-choice questions permitted a respondent to make only one selection from a list of options, others permitted a respondent to select more than one option from the list. In addition, we had some open-ended questions to allow stakeholders to explain their responses.

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5. In reporting the results of the surveys in Agenda Papers 17C and 17D, percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. This introduces minor rounding errors, meaning that some charts do not sum to exactly 100%. When summarising responses to multiple-choice questions permitting respondents to select more than one option, a total number of responses adds up to more than 100%.
 6. The choice and drafting of individual questions were informed by the staff's pre-October 2024 research and consultations on the project. In particular:
 - (a) the question on the problem to be solved in the project reflected the main themes from stakeholder feedback summarised in October 2024 [Agenda Paper 17](#). We also included an option for a respondent to say that there is no pressing issue in relation to information about intangibles and the financial statements provide sufficient information for investment decisions—if that option was selected, this took the respondent to the end of the survey.
 - (b) the questions on the scope and the priority of topics were based on the initial list of topics that the IASB could explore in the project, which we developed based on the feedback on the Third Agenda Consultation and other research (see Appendix A of Agenda Paper 17A). For the surveys, we separated topics related to the scope from other topics. We also reduced the number of topics by grouping some of them to make it easier for respondents to choose their top three topics.
 - (c) the question on the approach was based on the possible project approaches that we developed for the purpose of facilitating discussion and seeking feedback from stakeholders (see Appendix B of Agenda Paper 17A). In our initial consultations on the project stakeholders often commented on the early evaluation and phased approaches together in comparison to the all-in-one approach, so for the surveys we asked stakeholders whether they would prefer the IASB to address all the aspects in a single project or to prioritise the topics.
 7. The survey also sought to obtain more granular information on how information about intangibles is currently provided and used, including:

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- (a) how useful financial statements are as a source of information on intangibles;
 - (b) for what types of intangibles financial statements provide sufficient/insufficient information and what information is missing;
 - (c) whether and how users adjust financial statements in relation to intangibles; and
 - (d) what is the biggest constraint in providing information on intangibles.
8. In the context of the surveys, we used the term ‘intangible assets’ to refer to items that are capitalised on the balance sheet in accordance with the requirements in IAS 38 *Intangible Assets* and the term ‘intangibles’ to refer to all items, irrespective of whether they are capitalised, expensed or disclosed. We used these terms with the same meaning when summarising the feedback in Agenda Papers 17C and 17D.
9. The surveys were published on the IFRS Foundation’s website and promoted to all stakeholders to encourage participation. The surveys closed on 30 November 2024.

Appendix A—User survey

Do financial statements provide sufficient information about intangibles?

* Required

Purpose of the survey and project background

The survey seeks your views on whether information about intangibles provided in financial statements is sufficient.

Why are we surveying investors: Investors asked for improvements in how companies report intangibles. In response, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) has launched a project to thoroughly review the reporting of these items. In the initial phase of the project, we are interested in knowing what information investors are missing about intangibles.

What we will do with your feedback: Your responses to this survey will be summarised in a board paper in early 2025 which the IASB will consider in deciding the next steps of the project.

Time to complete the survey: The survey should take **no more than 20 minutes to complete**. Depending on your answers, you will be asked a maximum of 15 questions in the main section of the survey.

Background: To address concerns raised by stakeholders, the IASB will review whether the current reporting of intangibles aligns with modern business practices or needs improvement.

In the context of this survey:

- 'intangible assets' refers to items that are capitalised on the balance sheet in accordance with the requirements in IAS 38 *Intangible Assets*;
- 'intangibles' refers to all items, irrespective of whether they are capitalised, expensed or disclosed; and
- 'financial statements' refers to the income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes.

Although this project is focused on reporting in a company's financial statements, the IASB will also consider potential links to its project on management commentary and the work of the International Sustainability Standards Board, for example, on human capital.

Data Protection

We invite you to speak with us for an optional follow-up discussion

At the end of the survey, you will be asked to indicate whether you will be willing for us to contact you to discuss your answers in a follow-up meeting. If you answer 'yes', you will be asked to provide your name and affiliation.

Data protection and how we treat your data:

By completing this survey, you agree and acknowledge that the IFRS Foundation may use the data you provide in board papers and at public board meetings. Where the IFRS Foundation uses the data for such purposes, any personal data will be aggregated and anonymised; quotes may be published from responses but without names or organisations.

The IFRS Foundation will handle any personal data in accordance with data protection legislation.

The IFRS Foundation will retain personal data you provide through the form for as long as necessary to implement the purposes described above or to comply with legal, or regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the handling of your personal data, please contact compliance@ifrs.org.

If you indicate in the survey form your interest to be contacted by the IFRS Foundation about your survey response, the IFRS Foundation may contact you for this purpose.

Investor background Information

1. Please enter your email *

Please enter an email

2. My current role in the investment industry is best described as: *

Choose one answer

- Buy-side investment professional
- Sell-side investment professional
- Credit rating agency analyst
- Individual investor
- Other

3. If you answered 'Other', please describe your role as a user of financial statements. *

4. My current asset class coverage is primarily: *

Choose one answer

- Equities
- Fixed-income/Credit
- Other assets

5. Please list the main industry sectors that you cover. *

6. I mainly follow companies listed in: *

Choose all that apply

- Europe
- North America
- South America
- Africa
- Asia Oceania

Your views

7. Which of the following sources provide the most useful information related to intangibles? *

RANK these sources from the **MOST USEFUL** to the **LEAST USEFUL**.
At least one move is required, but moving something down then up allows the options to be submitted in the original order

Financial statements
Other required components of regulatory reporting (Management commentary/Financial Highlights sections of annual reports)
Sustainability reports
Third party sources (eg news articles, subscription-based private research reports, external data providers)
Voluntary company sources (Earnings press releases, Management Q&A, Investor presentations)

8. For what type of intangibles do financial statements provide sufficient/insufficient information? *

	<u>Sufficient</u> information	<u>Insufficient</u> information	I don't know
Carbon credits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cryptocurrencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Customer-related intangibles (eg brands)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Human capital	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
IP and licences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research and development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Software	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Are there any other types of intangibles for which financial statements provide insufficient information?

10. If you answered that financial statements provide insufficient information for any types of intangibles, please explain what information is missing.

11. Do you adjust the financial statements in relation to intangibles? *

Choose one answer

- No, I think that intangibles are represented correctly in the financial statements
- Yes, I replace the amount of intangible assets on the balance sheet with my own estimate, for example, adding an estimate of the expensed items that are growth oriented because I think they should be on the balance sheet
- Yes, I add back amortisation related to acquired intangible assets because I make my own estimate of the appropriate amount of amortisation to include
- Yes, I make adjustments to remove all intangible assets and amortisation from my analysis.
- Other

12. If you answered 'Other', please explain what other adjustments you make. *

13. Would you consider information about intangibles more useful if it was provided in the financial statements compared to other sources? *

Choose all that apply

- Yes, because the information in financial statements would be audited
- Yes, because the information in financial statements would be provided by all companies, when material
- Yes, because the information in financial statements would be provided in a consistent manner
- Yes - other reason
- No

14. If you answered 'Yes - other reason' or 'No', please explain.

15. What is the most pressing issue in relation to information about intangibles reported in the financial statements? *

Choose one answer

- Financial statements provide insufficient information about companies' intangibles. Financial statements should provide better information about intangibles (for example, by capitalising more intangibles on the balance sheet or improving disclosures about capitalised and expensed intangibles).
- The market value of companies differs significantly from the book value of their assets because some intangibles are not capitalised on the balance sheet or are measured at cost instead of fair value. Financial statements should reflect the value of all intangibles.
- Financial statements do not provide information on new types of intangibles and new ways to use them. Financial statements should be modernised to provide information on these new intangibles.
- Information in financial statements is unhelpful for comparing companies that internally generate intangibles and companies that acquire intangibles. Financial statements should enable comparisons of companies with different growth strategies.
- None, financial statements provide sufficient information for investment decisions.
- Other

16. If you answered 'Other', please explain what the issue in your view is. *

17. Should the IASB aim to address the reporting on the following intangibles in the financial statements? *

Choose the answer that applies

	Yes, in the Intangible Assets project	Yes, but in a separate project	No need to address / not relevant to me
A broader range of intangibles, such as assembled workforce or customer satisfaction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intangible assets held for investment, such as cryptocurrencies and emission rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intangible assets covered by other Accounting Standards, such as goodwill or exploration and evaluation expenditures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Which of the following will help improve information on intangibles in the financial statements the most? *

Please select UP TO THREE answers

- Update the definition of an intangible asset and associated guidance to help make them easier to apply, particularly to new types of intangibles such as software as a service.
- Investigate whether more intangibles should be reported on the balance sheet
- Improve comparability of information about acquired and internally generated intangible assets
- Improve consistency in measuring intangible assets (for example, by providing guidance on how to assess the cost or fair value of some intangible assets or how to estimate useful lives).
- Improve disclosure about capitalised and expensed intangibles (for example, by requiring disaggregation of expenses related to intangibles or information on how key intangibles create value for the company).
- Make it easier to find and compare information about intangibles by introducing consistent labels for different intangibles (for example, a single label for customer relationships, customer base and customer lists)

19. Which approach do you prefer the IASB takes for the project? *

Choose one answer

- The IASB should address all the aspects in a single project. It is more important to have a comprehensive and coherent set of proposals, even if it requires a longer time to complete the project.
- The IASB should prioritise the topics. It is more important to address issues in a timely manner, even if this requires splitting the project in separate sub-projects to be completed in a different timeframe.
- Not relevant to me

20. Do you have examples of best practices in relation to providing information on intangibles that you would like to share?

21. Do you have any additional comments?

Consent for further contact

22. I agree to be contacted to discuss my responses further. *

Yes

No

23. Please provide your name, surname and organisation name. *

Appendix B—General survey

Do financial statements provide sufficient information about intangibles?

* Required

Purpose of the survey and project background

The survey seeks your views on whether information about intangibles provided in financial statements is sufficient.

Why are we surveying stakeholders: Stakeholders, especially investors, asked for improvements in how companies report intangibles. In response, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) has launched a project to thoroughly review the reporting of these items. In the initial phase of the project, we are interested in knowing stakeholders' views on what information is missing about intangibles.

What we will do with your feedback: Your responses to this survey will be summarised in a board paper in early 2025 which the IASB will consider in deciding the next steps of the project.

Time to complete the survey: The survey should take **no more than 20 minutes to complete**. Depending on your answers, you will be asked a maximum of 14 questions in the main section of the survey.

Background: To address concerns raised by stakeholders, the IASB will review whether the current reporting of intangibles aligns with modern business practices or needs improvement.

In the context of this survey:

- 'intangible assets' refers to items that are capitalised on the balance sheet in accordance with the requirements in IAS 38 *Intangible Assets*;
- 'intangibles' refers to all items, irrespective of whether they are capitalised, expensed or disclosed; and
- 'financial statements' refers to the income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes.

Although this project is focused on reporting in a company's financial statements, the IASB will also consider potential links to its project on management commentary and the work of the International Sustainability Standards Board, for example, on human capital.

Data Protection

Data protection and how we treat your data:

By completing this survey, you agree and acknowledge that the IFRS Foundation may use the data you provide in board papers and at public board meetings. Where the IFRS Foundation uses the data for such purposes, any personal data will be aggregated and anonymised; quotes may be published from responses but without names or organisations.

The IFRS Foundation will handle any personal data in accordance with data protection legislation.

The IFRS Foundation will retain personal data you provide through the form for as long as necessary to implement the purposes described above or to comply with legal, or regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the handling of your personal data, please contact compliance@ifrs.org.

Stakeholder background Information

1. Please enter your email *

Please enter an email

2. My current role is best described as: *

Choose one answer

- Auditor
- Preparer
- Regulator
- Other

3. If you answered 'Other', please describe your role. *

4. What is the predominant industry you (or your clients) work in? *

5. Where is your job based? *

Choose all that apply

- Europe
- North America
- South America
- Africa
- Asia Oceania

Your views

6. Which of the following sources provide the most useful information related to intangibles? *

RANK these sources from the **MOST USEFUL** to the **LEAST USEFUL**.

At least one move is required, but moving something down then up allows the options to be submitted in the original order

Financial statements
Other required components of regulatory reporting (Management commentary/Financial Highlights sections of annual reports)
Sustainability reports
Third party sources (eg news articles, subscription-based private research reports, external data providers)
Voluntary company sources (Earnings press releases, Management Q&A, Investor presentations)

7. For what type of intangibles do financial statements provide sufficient/insufficient information? *

	<u>Sufficient</u> information	<u>Insufficient</u> information	I don't know
Carbon credits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cryptocurrencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Customer-related intangibles (eg brands)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Human capital	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
IP and licences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research and development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Software	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Are there any other types of intangibles for which financial statements provide insufficient information?

9. If you answered that financial statements provide insufficient information for any types of intangibles, please explain what information is missing.

10. Would you consider information about intangibles more useful if it was provided in the financial statements compared to other sources? *

Choose all that apply

- Yes, because the information in financial statements would be audited
- Yes, because the information in financial statements would be provided by all companies, when material
- Yes, because the information in financial statements would be provided in a consistent manner
- Yes - other reason
- No
- Yes - other reason

11. If you answered 'Yes - other reason' or 'No', please explain.

12. What is the most pressing issue in relation to information about intangibles reported in the financial statements? *

Choose one answer

- Financial statements provide insufficient information about companies' intangibles. Financial statements should provide better information about intangibles (for example, by capitalising more intangibles on the balance sheet or improving disclosures about capitalised and expensed intangibles).
- The market value of companies differs significantly from the book value of their assets because some intangibles are not capitalised on the balance sheet or are measured at cost instead of fair value. Financial statements should reflect the value of all intangibles.
- Financial statements do not provide information on new types of intangibles and new ways to use them. Financial statements should be modernised to provide information on these new intangibles.
- Information in financial statements is unhelpful for comparing companies that internally generate intangibles and companies that acquire intangibles. Financial statements should enable comparisons of companies with different growth strategies.
- None, financial statements provide sufficient information for investment decisions.
- Other

13. If you answered 'Other', please explain what the issue in your view is. *

14. Should the IASB aim to address the reporting on the following intangibles in the financial statements? *

Choose the answer that applies

	Yes, in the Intangible Assets project	Yes, but in a separate project	No need to address / not relevant to me
A broader range of intangibles, such as assembled workforce or customer satisfaction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intangible assets held for investment, such as cryptocurrencies and emission rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intangible assets covered by other Accounting Standards, such as goodwill or exploration and evaluation expenditures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Which of the following will help improve information on intangibles in the financial statements the most: *

Please select UP TO THREE answers

- Update the definition of an intangible asset and associated guidance to help make them easier to apply, particularly to new types of intangibles such as software as a service.
- Investigate whether more intangibles should be reported on the balance sheet
- Improve comparability of information about acquired and internally generated intangible assets
- Improve consistency in measuring intangible assets (for example, by providing guidance on how to assess the cost or fair value of some intangible assets or how to estimate useful lives).
- Improve disclosure about capitalised and expensed intangibles (for example, by requiring disaggregation of expenses related to intangibles or information on how key intangibles create value for the company).
- Make it easier to find and compare information about intangibles by introducing consistent labels for different intangibles (for example, a single label for customer relationships, customer base and customer lists)

16. What is, in your view, the biggest constraint in providing information on intangibles? *

RANK the answers from **BIGGEST** to **SMALLEST** constraint

At least one move is required, but moving something down then up allows the options to be submitted in the original order

Commercial sensitivity

Cost to audit information

Cost to provide information

Lack of consistent terminology for the same type of intangibles

Uncertainty and risks associated with intangibles (for instance, attributing costs to individual intangibles or assessing future benefits)

17. Are there any other constraints in providing information on intangibles?

18. Which approach do you prefer the IASB takes for the project? *

Choose one answer

- The IASB should address all the aspects in a single project. It is more important to have a comprehensive and coherent set of proposals, even if it requires a longer time to complete the project.
- The IASB should prioritise the topics. It is more important to address issues in a timely manner, even if this requires splitting the project in separate sub-projects to be completed in a different timeframe.
- Not relevant to me

19. Do you have any additional comments?