

United Kingdom

Best Practice in Benchmarking



TYPE OF TOOL
*Methodology/
Guidelines/
Requirements*



MAIN SECTOR
All sectors



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS
Evidence-informed decision making

In a nutshell



OBJECTIVE: The benchmarking methodology for infrastructure projects is aimed at improving infrastructure performance by using data from other projects to better inform project development and decision-making.



Agency in charge
Infrastructure and Projects Authority



Levels of government
National and sub-national



Year of implementation
2017



Current status
Fully operational

Overview

The United Kingdom has developed in 2017 the Transforming Infrastructure Performance (TIP) programme with the aim to increase the effectiveness of investment in infrastructure by improving productivity. This includes both economic infrastructure such as transport and energy networks, and social infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. It is a long-term change programme with a ten-year horizon that builds on existing best practice and tackles the systemic issues that still limit the performance of UK infrastructure. As part of the TIP programme, the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) has developed a new top-down benchmarking methodology, Best Practice in Benchmarking. As a way to promote evidence-informed decision-making, consistent and effective benchmarking will help underpin government and industry decisions on project selection and delivery. The methodology is used to encourage better and more consistent benchmarking across infrastructure projects among both government departments and client organisations. It involves using data from other projects to better inform project development and decision-making throughout a project's lifecycle. A guidance report introduces the IPA's recommended methodology for benchmarking and includes a step-by-step guide to undertaking, or commissioning, a benchmarking exercise. It sets out why sponsors and delivery bodies, such as Government Departments and Arm's-Length Bodies (ALBs), and consultants and suppliers, could benefit from using benchmarking to improve project performance. The Case Study in Benchmarking Tunnelling Costs and Production Rates described in the guidance report successfully explored and tested the methodology. It demonstrated that the methodology allows organisations to compare like for like assets across and within sector. Following this guidance, the IPA published a benchmarking capability tool which supports organisations to measure and improve their benchmarking capability against industry best practice.

REFERENCES:

- Infrastructure and Projects Authority (2019), *Best Practice in Benchmarking*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/best-practice-in-benchmarking>