



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2016-0115 | 7 June 2016

E-petition 125692 relating to foreign aid spending

Westminster Hall

Monday 13 June 2016, 4.30pm – 7.30pm

An e-petition debate relating to foreign aid spending has been scheduled for Monday 13 June at 4.30pm in Westminster Hall by the [Petitions Committee](#).

This is an e-petition debate following a petition uploaded to the Petitions website. As this e-petition attracted over 100,000 signatures, the Petitions Committee agreed that a debate will be held.

The petition in question, initiated by the Mail on Sunday, is entitled: "Stop spending a fixed 0.7 per cent slice of our national wealth on Foreign Aid".

The debate will be held under the motion, "That this House has considered [e-petition 125692](#) relating to foreign aid spending".

The debate will be led by Steve Double MP, a member of the Petitions Committee.

A digital debate will be held on this petition on Twitter on Monday 13 June using the hashtag [#UKAidDebate](#) ahead of the debate in Westminster Hall.

Steve Double MP, Member of the Petitions Committee, and Stephen Twigg MP, Chair of the International Development Committee, will be asking the public a series of questions aimed to inform the Westminster Hall debate. Other Members are welcome to participate or read the twitter debate on Twitter via [#UKAidDebate](#)

The proceedings of this debate may be viewed on [Parliamentlive.tv](#)

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

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1. E-petition

The following is the text of the petition as it appears on the Petitions website. The petition will close on the 24 September 2016.

Stop spending a fixed 0.7 per cent slice of our national wealth on Foreign Aid

Despite spending cuts at home the Government is committed to hand over 0.7% of national income in overseas aid, regardless of need. The Mail on Sunday believes voters do not want this and instead, we should provide money only for truly deserving causes, on a case-by-case basis.

A bill passed in 2015 required the Government to spend a fixed 0.7% of gross national income on foreign aid. UK handouts will rise from current £12bn to £16bn by 2020. This is by far the highest rate of any G20 nation and is leading to huge waste and corruption. We believe this is the wrong approach because it fuels waste by focussing on targets, not outcomes. Foreign aid should provide money for the job, not jobs for the money.

1.1 Government response

The UK's aid commitment means we can be proud to be a country that not only meets its responsibilities to the world's poorest, but in doing so best serves and protects its own security and interests.

The UK's commitments on overseas aid were part of the 2015 manifesto on which the government was elected. The government is keeping its promise to the electorate, tackling global challenges in the national interest.

Britain faces a simple choice: either we wait for the problems of the world to arrive on our doorstep, or we take action to tackle them at source.

UK aid, whether it is helping to prevent deadly diseases like Ebola from coming to the UK from West Africa, or enabling Syrian refugees and other would-be migrants to stay in their home region, is about creating a more stable and secure world.

Over the last five years, UK aid has been life-saving and life-changing for millions of the poorest people around the world. We have supported 11 million children through school. We have helped more than 60 million

people get access to clean water, better sanitation and improved hygiene conditions. We are leading the global effort to save millions of girls from child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation.

UK aid is spent where it is most needed and is subject to rigorous internal and external checks and scrutiny at all stages. The UK's aid programmes are scrutinised by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, the International Development Select Committee and Public Accounts Committee in Parliament, and the National Audit Office. This is in addition to internal monitoring and evaluation to ensure projects stay on track and deliver value for taxpayers' money.

The government has realigned the UK's aid strategy, cutting wasteful programmes and making sure spending is firmly in the UK's national interest. Alongside an increased defence budget and the UK's world class diplomatic service, our aid programme is helping to create a more prosperous and stable world in which the UK can stand tall and flourish.

Britain's aid strategy recognises that tackling poverty overseas means tackling the root causes of global problems that affect all of us, such as disease, migration, and terrorism. The Department for International Development is the UK's primary channel for aid, but to respond to the changing world, more aid will be administered by other government departments, such as the Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department of Health, and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, drawing on their complementary skills.

The government will invest more through its aid programme to tackle the causes of instability, insecurity and conflict, and to tackle crime and corruption. DFID is already working with the Metropolitan Police, National Crime Agency, and HMRC to recover funds stolen from developing countries, and help countries build proper tax systems and robust institutions so they can stand on their own two feet.

This is an approach that works; as well as delivering humanitarian aid to crisis zones and targeting the root causes of the migration crisis, it is increasing economic prospects in fragile states to help counter extremism, and helping build our future trading partners.

2. Library briefing: The 0.7% aid target and the effectiveness of UK aid

Library Note for the Westminster Hall debate on foreign aid spending, 13 June 2016

Overview

In 2013, the Government achieved the target for the UK to contribute 0.7% of its national income in aid for the first time, when the UK's total aid expenditure reached £11.4 billion, or 0.72% of national income. This was more than double the aid-to-national-income ratio that was achieved through most of the 1980s and 1990s. The UK joined a very select group – only Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Luxembourg and the United Arab Emirates also spent more than 0.7% of their national income in aid in 2013.

In 2015 a Private Members' Bill sponsored by former Liberal Democrat MP Michael Moore passed into law with the support of the then Coalition Government. The [*International Development \(Official Development Assistance Target\) Act*](#) put the 0.7% aid target in legislation – in other words, it became legally binding for governments to meet it each year.

The 0.7% target was first [accepted in principle](#) by the newly-elected UK Labour government in February 1974. Subsequent Conservative governments also [did so](#). But it was only from the mid-2000's onwards that levels of aid spending began to rise significantly.

Following pledges in the 2010 Conservative and Liberal Democrat manifestos, the Coalition Government [committed](#) to meet the 0.7% target by 2013 and to enshrine it in law. After two failed attempts through Private Members' Bills, Michael Moore's Bill was successful.

In each year from 2013 to 2015, the UK's total aid expenditure was at or around 0.7 % of national income. In 2015, it reached 0.71%. The 2015 figure is not yet a final figure – it is possible that it could be revised either upwards or downwards.

The 0.7% aid target has long had opponents in Parliament. Their opposition has been reinforced by its enshrinement in law. Sections of the media have also mobilised against the target more recently (see below). In March 2016, John Wellington of the *Mail on Sunday* sponsored a petition calling on the Government to "[stop spending a fixed 0.7 per cent of our national wealth on Foreign Aid](#)". After the petition passed the 100,000 signature threshold qualifying it for

consideration for debate by the Petitions Committee, the Committee scheduled a Westminster Hall Debate for 13 June.¹

A series of stories alleging that UK aid is being spent wastefully and ineffectively, and is going to corrupt governments, have appeared in some newspapers since March.² The claims have included allegations that UK aid has been funding Palestinian terrorists; that there was an overspend on UK aid in 2015; and that a small group of favoured private contractors have made large profits thanks to the increase in UK aid spending. In turn, this has prompted a response from advocates of the target, including a detailed [rebuttal](#) in April from the Government itself.

2.1 What is the 0.7% aid target?

The 0.7% aid target is a target for donor countries to contribute 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) as Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). It was adopted as a target by a resolution of the UN General Assembly in 1970.

Countries' proximity to the target and their commitment to achieve it is regarded by the international community as being an indicator of the generosity of individual countries' aid policies. The OECD monitors and also provides [data](#) on countries' ODA as a proportion of GNI.³

Aid flows [count](#) as ODA if they:

- go to countries and territories on the OECD's [Development Assistance Committee's List of ODA Recipients](#) (which covers most low and middle income countries, and all Least Developed Countries) or to multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank;
- are provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies;
- are administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and
- are either grants or loans that have a substantial benefit to the borrower compared to a loan at market rate.

There are limitations on what aid can be reported as ODA. However, the [parameters](#) of what can be counted as ODA were adjusted by the OECD in February 2016 – for example, more peace and security-related costs can be included in future. The UK Government [supported](#) these changes, which it views as consistent with its new aid policy, published in November 2015. But some observers have worried that this shift

¹ As at 7 June, the number of signatories of the petition had reached 230,672.

² For an up-to-date list of the *Mail* and *Mail on Sunday's* articles on foreign aid spending, click [here](#)

³ Gross National Income (GNI) is a measure of output which values goods and services produced by the residents of a country. It differs from GDP, which is the most widely used measure of output, because it includes income such as dividend and interest payments received from other countries, less similar payments made abroad. GDP measures output within a country's territorial borders whereas GNI measures output produced by residents of a country, regardless of whether they are produced in the country or not. When the target was first adopted, it measured in terms of GDP.

could deflect UK attention away from its longstanding top priority of poverty reduction under the 2002 [International Development Act](#).

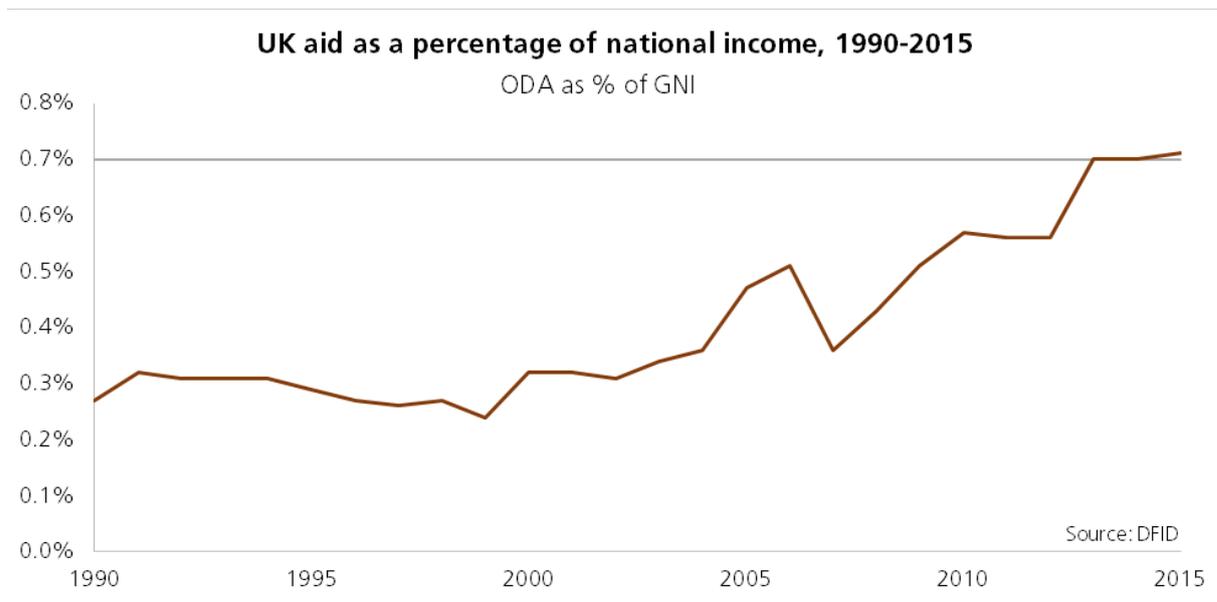
2.2 Recent UK performance against the target

In 2015, provisional estimates suggest that the UK spent £12.24 billion in aid (ODA) – 0.71% of GNI, hitting the aid target for the third year. It is worth noting that:

These figures are provisional – figures for aid and GNI for 2015 may both be revised

To produce the 0.71% figure, GNI is estimated using older methods (ESA95) that were in force when the government was planning its aid spending for 2015. Newer methods (ESA2010) are now being used, and these put aid as at 0.67% of GNI for 2015 (again provisionally).⁴

About 1.6% of UK public spending is dedicated to aid.⁵



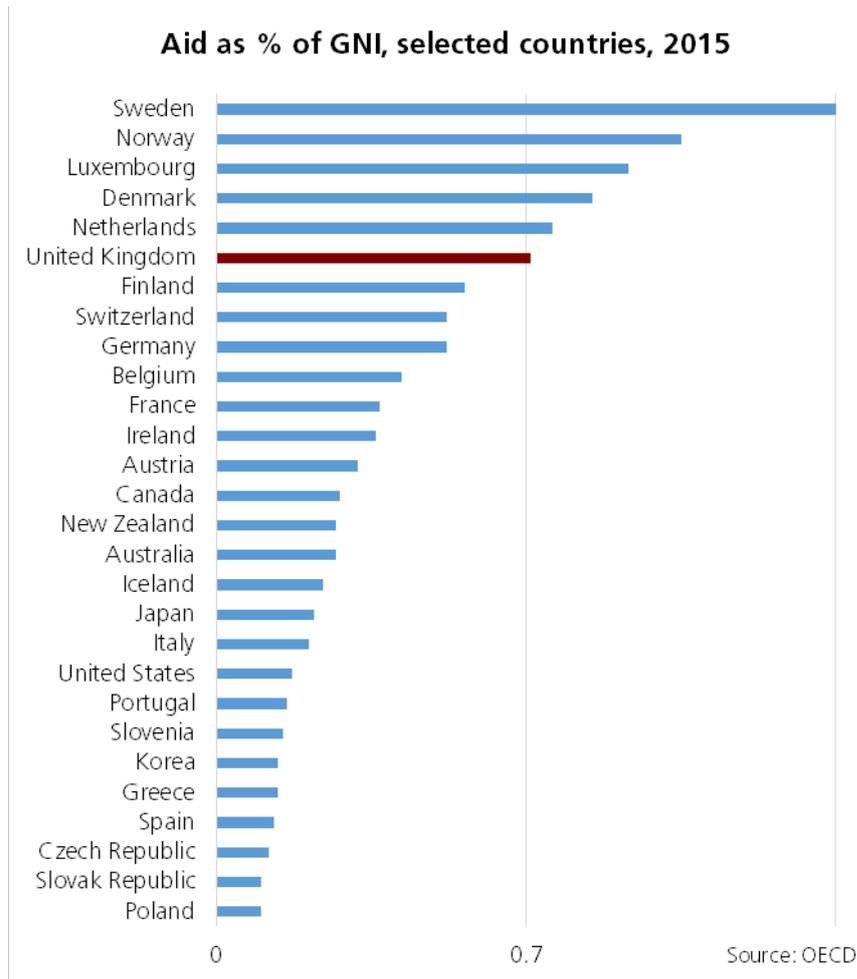
The UK is one of a relatively small group of countries that spend more than 0.7% of their GNI on aid – in 2015, the others were the Netherlands, Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Arab Emirates (all of these countries spent more as a % of GNI than the UK).

In absolute terms, the UK's aid spending was the second largest in the world in 2015, second only to the United States.⁶

⁴ Department for International Development, [Provisional UK official development assistance as a proportion of gross national income: 2015](#) (April 2016)

⁵ Based on 2014 aid spending from the previous source and total managed expenditure for 2014/15 from HM Treasury, [Public Spending Statistics release: April 2016](#) (April 2016)

⁶ OECD Stat, [Table DAC1](#) [online, accessed 6 June 2016]



2.3 Placing the Westminster Hall debate in context

The 13 June Westminster Hall debate is only the latest exchange between supporters and opponents of the target in the UK.⁷

For example, in a March 2012 report on the *Economic Impact and Effectiveness of Development Aid*, the House of Lords Economics Affairs Committee stated that: “we do not accept that meeting by 2013 the UN target of spending 0.7% (£12bn) of Gross National Income on aid should now be a plank, let alone the central plank, of British aid policy”.

The Committee gave the following reasons for their recommendation that the Government abandon the target:

- a) it wrongly prioritises the amount spent rather than the result achieved;
- b) it makes the achievement of the spending target more important than the overall effectiveness of the programme;
- c) the speed of the planned increase risks reducing the quality, value for money and accountability of the aid programme;

⁷ For a more in-depth survey of the arguments made for and against the target, see Library briefing 3714, [The 0.7% aid target](#) (July 2014)

[One witness told the House of Lords committee that the target encouraged officials “to turn a blind eye to flagrant abuse in the pressure to get the money out of the door”];

d) reaching the target increases the risk ... that aid will have a corrosive effect on local political systems.

[Professor Adrian Wood of Oxford University told the House of Lords Committee: “If you give a country too much aid for too long you damage its basic governance structure because the politicians pay more attention to the donors than they do to their citizens”];

The House of Lords Economics Affairs Committee concluded that “the core of aid policy should be choosing and funding the best ways of promoting international development and stability, rather than finding new ways to spend ever-increasing resources”. Many of these arguments have featured in the critical media coverage of recent months.

Speaking after the 2012 Autumn Statement, Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development, summed up the Coalition Government’s [stance](#) – one that the current Conservative Government has reiterated since it was elected in May 2015.

Achieving our pledge of 0.7% is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. It is in everyone’s interests for countries around the world to be stable and secure, to have educated and healthy populations, and to have growing economies.

In its December 2014 ‘Peer Review’ of the UK’s development policies and programmes, the OECD was [strongly positive](#) in its findings about the UK’s performance at 0.7% of GNI (although it did also recommend some improvements):

An active member of the international community, the United Kingdom (UK) continues to lead in shaping the global development agenda [...]

Development is a high priority for the UK government. Even in difficult economic times, it remains committed to honouring its commitments and leads by example, as illustrated by the volume of the UK’s ODA reaching 0.7% of its gross national income in 2013. This shows that persistent political will, sustained by broad crossparty consensus, makes it possible to achieve ambitious objectives [...]

A mission-driven, forward-looking department, DFID is well positioned to manage the development co-operation programme efficiently and effectively [...]

The UK systematically and robustly analyses different types of risks and has strengthened its approach to corruption [...]

There is clear political drive to achieve results. The UK government has clearly defined the results it aims to achieve through development co-operation and its measurement has improved significantly.

The previous Coalition Government created the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) to scrutinise the effectiveness of UK aid. Over the past five years, as UK aid spending has edged towards and

then met the 0.7% aid target, it has published a large number of reports on many subjects.

ICAI's findings have ranged from the highly critical to the highly positive. For example, in May 2016, it gave a '[green](#)' rating to the Government for its efforts to combat violence against women and girls. However, in a 2014 report on DFID's anti-corruption efforts, it gave the Government an '[amber-red](#)' rating.

ICAI reports to Parliament through the International Development Committee, which itself carries out ongoing inquiries into the effectiveness of UK aid. The Public Accounts Committee and National Audit Office also periodically scrutinize UK aid spending.

The results of new Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews were due to be [published](#) by the Government by Spring 2016. However, it seems that their publication has been delayed until after the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union has taken place. The last such full reviews were in [2011](#), with a multilateral update conducted in [2013](#). DFID also commissions and carries out its own ongoing monitoring and evaluation of UK aid.

3. Press articles

The following is a selection of recent press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

Various Mail on Sunday and Daily Mail articles on UK Overseas Aid can be found on the [Mail Online Foreign Aid page](#)

The Guardian

[UK government accused of 'hijacking' aid budget to bankroll big business](#)

Sam Jones

4 June 2016

Mail Online

[Ethiopian Spice Girls project in line for £16m MORE of our foreign aid despite warning that it may be a waste of money](#)

Jason Groves

19 June 2016

Daily Telegraph

[How Britain's foreign aid bonanza has created a new Goliath, towering over the Foreign Office](#)

David Blair

25 May 2016

Daily Mirror

[Britain hands £150k foreign aid to beekeepers in Kyrgyzstan – and YOU'RE paying the bill](#)

Scott Campbell

15 May 2016

Mail Online

[The Dirty Dozen: As the furore over Britain's foreign aid grows, we reveal the corrupt and brutal tyrannies propped up by YOUR money](#)

15 April 2016

The Independent

[Britain one of just six rich countries to meet UN foreign aid target](#)

Ryan Wilkinson

14 April 2016

Daily Telegraph

[Time to end the foreign aid profligacy](#)

3 April 2016

Mail Online

£172million... is what we OVERSPENT on Foreign Aid last year by mistake - as sneaked out by the Government on Friday. That's enough to keep Port Talbot steel plant alive for six months

Simon Walters

2 April 2016

The Guardian

Six reasons taxpayers can be proud of UK aid

Ben Jackson

30 March 2016

Daily Mirror

Foreign aid: Each year you give £178 to charity and this is what it does

Federica Cocco

19 March 2016

Huffington Post (Blog)

Slashing Our Overseas Aid Budget Would Be the Truly 'Mad' Decision

Stephen Doughty

29 March 2016

Mail Online

Revealed, how UK aid funds TERRORISTS: After yet more budget cuts, another £12bn of your taxes are being splurged on foreign hand-outs for militants, killers, Palestinian palaces and jobs that don't exist

Mark Wood and Nick Craven

26 March 2016

The Guardian

UK passes bill to honour pledge of 0.7% foreign aid target

Mark Anderson

9 March 2015

The Guardian

Majority of UK believes overseas aid should rise, survey says

Sam Jones

29 February 2016

Mail Online

Britain's foreign aid budget is growing so fast that ministers and officials are 'struggling' to spend it properly

Jason Groves

12 February 2016

The Guardian

We fight poverty, disease and fear. We should be proud of how it helps the poorest

David Cameron

26 September 2015

4. Department for International Development

Media reports on UK aid projects: setting the record straight **Department for International Development** **28 March 2016 (updated 9 April 2016)**

A number of recent newspaper articles have reported claims that misrepresent or inaccurately portray projects supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), or focus on projects that are no longer funded.

UK aid is spent where it is most needed and is subject to rigorous internal and external checks and scrutiny at all stages. The government has realigned the [UK's aid strategy](#), cutting wasteful programmes and making sure spending is firmly in the UK's national interest. Alongside an increased defence budget and the UK's world class diplomatic service, our aid programme is helping to create a more prosperous and stable world in which the UK can stand tall and flourish.

This is an approach that works; it has helped reduce the threat to the UK from Ebola in West Africa, it is targeting the root causes of the migration crisis, and it is increasing economic prospects in fragile states to counter extremism and help build our future trading partners.

Claim

The UK has 'overspent' on its target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on foreign aid.

Fact

This assertion is based on provisional figures only. The provisional overseas development assistance (ODA) figures published on 1 April 2016 forecast that UK spending on ODA will have been 0.71% of gross national income (GNI) in 2015. In reality, we will not know the actual figure until the final ODA figures across government and final GNI figures are analysed and published later in the year. In both 2013 and 2014 the final figures of 0.7% were preceded by higher provisional figures (0.72% and 0.71% respectively).

Claim

DFID has 'rushed money out the door' towards the end of the year so that it can meet the 0.7% aid target.

Fact

This is incorrect. UK contributions to the World Bank and other multilateral institutions, alongside those of other countries, happen at the end of the calendar year, every year.

Claim

DFID aid money is being 'lavished' on private sector contractors.

Fact

This is incorrect. Since 2012 DFID has radically overhauled its approach to using contractors, tightening procurement processes and introducing strict new ministerial controls on how it awards contracts, as well as bringing in a tough new code of conduct. That approach has delivered results, including £500 million of savings. For the last three years running, DFID has won awards from CIPS, the independent professional institute for procurement, in recognition of its commercial best practices.

Claim

There is no proper scrutiny of how DFID spends aid money.

Fact

This is incorrect. DFID's work is scrutinised by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, the International Development Select Committee and Public Accounts Committee in Parliament, and the National Audit Office. DFID has been recognised as a world-leader in aid transparency. This is in addition to internal monitoring and evaluation to ensure projects stay on track and deliver value for taxpayers' money.

Claim

Aid money from British and European taxpayers is going to Palestinian prisoners including terrorists.

Fact

This allegation is simply incorrect. No UK aid is used for payments to Palestinian prisoners, or their families. Only named civil servants from a pre-approved EU list are eligible, and the vetting process ensures that our funds do not benefit terrorist groups. EU financial assistance is linked to the same vetting process. Our funds are also subject to independent auditing. UK support, alongside Norway, France and Japan, is provided through a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank, which carries out close monitoring of Palestinian Authority (PA) expenditure. UK and international support for the PA is helping to maintain stability, deliver basic services and build the institutions of a future Palestinian state living in peace and security side by side with Israel. The UK does not provide any funding to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Claim

UK aid to the Palestinian Authority funded an £8 million presidential palace.

Fact

Incorrect. UK direct financial assistance to the PA is not used for the purpose of capital expenditure and is via a World Bank trust fund, which carries out close monitoring of PA expenditure. No UK aid money has been used to finance a 'presidential palace'.

Claim

DFID has allocated £6 million to the Centre for Global Development (CGD) with the implication in media reporting that this has helped pay for new headquarters in Washington DC costing £12 million.

Fact

Incorrect. Not a penny of British funding has gone to pay for CGD office space. British funding supports research to help children get education and improve health systems, which will ultimately save lives in some of the poorest countries in the world and will support stability.

Claim

A DFID-funded BBC radio drama broadcast in Somalia provided practical tips on how to make the illegal journey from Africa to Europe at the height of the migrant crisis.

Fact

Incorrect. It is entirely wrong to suggest that this programme is urging Somalis to migrate; in fact one of its central messages was about the dangers of migration.

Claim

DFID civil servants are being given high performance ratings so they can be paid 'bonuses' which helps hit the 0.7% aid target.

Fact

Incorrect. DFID civil servants are paid in line with UK Civil Service-wide regulations. The UK government follows international rules on aid spending which cover how salary costs in support of overseas development work are included. DFID has more than halved the proportion of staff eligible for performance awards and slashed the spend on them as a result. The department has reduced its admin budget by a third since 2010.

UK aid strategy: tackling global challenges in the national interest

Recent crises, from our response to the Ebola epidemic to our use of our aid budget to support refugees in Syria and the surrounding region, have proved why aid is so important for us as well as for the countries we assist.

The world is changing, and our strategy on aid needs to change with it. That is why over the last 3 years we have restructured our aid budget to ensure that it is focused on tackling the great global challenges – from the root causes of mass migration and disease, to the threat of terrorism and global climate change – all of which also directly threaten British interests. They are inextricably linked.

The government will invest more through its aid programme to tackle the causes of instability, insecurity and conflict, and to tackle crime and corruption to help developing countries stand on their own 2 feet. We are determined to ensure that every penny of money spent delivers value for taxpayers, and projects that do not are cut.

With this new strategy, Britain can be proud to be a country that not only meets its responsibilities to the world's poorest, but in doing so best serves and protects its own security and interests.

5. PQs

[Ethiopia: Overseas Aid](#)

01 Jun 2016 | 38390

Asked by: Rebecca Long Bailey

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what conditions are applied under the terms of agreement with the Ethiopian government on the provision of UK aid; and what process is used to assess the Ethiopian government's compliance with such conditions.

Answering member: Nick Hurd | Department for International Development

The United Kingdom's aid relationship with any government is based on an assessment of commitment to our partnership principles, which include economic, social and human rights and financial management. A guidance note which sets out DFID's approach to the partnership principles is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/358341/how-to-partnership-principles-march2014a.pdf. As outlined in the policy, DFID makes regular assessments of partnership principles based on a wide range of sources. Sources include local and international non-governmental organisations and think tanks, academic institutions and other development partners. Overall we currently assess that the Government of Ethiopia remains committed to the underlying principles of our partnership.

[Ethiopia: Overseas Aid](#)

01 Jun 2016 | 38389

Asked by: Rebecca Long Bailey

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what guarantees she has received that UK development aid for Ethiopia is not used for military or security purposes or the so-called villagisation dispersal programme; and what safeguards are in place to ensure that UK aid to Ethiopia is used only for agreed development purposes.

Answering member: Nick Hurd | Department for International Development

All DFID aid in Ethiopia is administered through specific programmes, each with a strong set of controls, high standard monitoring and strong DFID oversight. Aid in Ethiopia is distributed through a number of channels. Where a programme is administered using government systems a standard fiduciary risk assessment evaluating the national public financial management system is mandatory. As with all aid spending, strong checks and balances and regular monitoring ensure that aid is used for the purposes intended.

UK aid in Ethiopia has contributed to the remarkable developmental gains the country has made over the past decade. The UK has helped reduce poverty and child mortality in Ethiopia by a quarter and put four more million children in primary school.

Middle East: Overseas Aid

25 May 2016 | 37735

Asked by: Joan Ryan

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how much funding the Government provided to each (a) Israeli and (b) Palestinian non-governmental organisation through the (i) Conflict Security and Stability Fund and (ii) bilateral programme budget in the most recent year for which figures are available.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

(a)The provisional project spend for 2015/16 for non-governmental organisations registered in Israel provided through: (i) the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund is: The Peres Centre for Peace - £44,592; Injaz - Centre for Professional Arab Local Governance - £60,608; Kids Creating Peace - £40,000; Yesh Din - £196,084; Gisha - £53,126; Peace Now - £124,361; Terrestrial Jerusalem - £51,040; The International Peace and Cooperation Centre - £232,933; and Rabbis for Human Rights - £101,441; (ii) the Bilateral Programme Budget is: none.

(b)The provisional project spend for 2015/16 for non-governmental organisations registered with the Palestinian Authority provided through: (i) the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund is: Jerusalem Community Advocacy Network (also registered in Israel) - £141,679 (ii) the Bilateral Programme Budget is: Society for the care of Disabled People - £9,117; Nawa Association for Culture and Arts Association - £7,111; Al Aqsa Sports and Social Club- £9,602; Society for Physically Handicapped People - £9,602; Ibda'a for children development and institutional cultural exchange - £5,062; Idna Cooperation - Women Capacity Building- £6,658; Sourif Association for Higher Education - £2,920; Iman and Baraem Kindergartens - £4,865 ; ADWAR Association for Social Change - £5,516; Assembly of Benevolent Operation - £7,061; Atwar centre - £1,282; Diyar Sports school for Girls – £6,328; Saint Nicolas Home for the Elderly - £5,183; Hebron Rehabilitation Committee - £5,010; Ashtar Theatre - £2,127; The Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry - £9,963; Aqaba Club for Unity and Hope - £5,169; Burj Al Luqluq Youth Centre (also registered in Israel) - £19,297; and Silwan Youth Centre (also registered in Israel) - £7,173

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

12 May 2016 | HL8117

Asked by: Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have given any consideration to suspending aid to the Palestinian Authority in the light of its decision to transfer over £85 million a year to the Palestine Liberation Organisation for the purpose of paying salaries to convicted terrorists imprisoned in Israel.

Answering member: Baroness Verma | Department for International Development

DFID is currently reviewing all its programmes following the publication of the updated Official Development Assistance strategy last year. DFID

provides financial support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to help deliver peace and support progress towards a two state solution. DFID funding helps build Palestinian institutions and promotes economic growth so that any future Palestinian state will be a prosperous and effective partner for peace. UK funding to the PA is for vetted civil servants only.

The PA has reaffirmed that prisoner payments are administered by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. We continue to lobby that the payments to prisoner's families are more transparent and needs-based.

Rwanda: Overseas Aid

12 May 2016 | 36960

Asked by: Rebecca Long Bailey

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what conditionality in relation to governance and human rights is applied to aid to Rwanda.

Answering member: Nick Hurd | Department for International Development

Decisions on aid to Rwanda are informed by judgements about the Government of Rwanda's commitment to DFID's partnership principles, which include respect for political and civil rights. In light of concerns in this area, DFID Ministers have agreed that the UK no longer provides General or Sector Budget Support to the Government of Rwanda. Rather, we direct funding into specific sectors, targeting particular results.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

12 May 2016 | 36779

Asked by: David Anderson

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, in what ways Government aid to Ethiopia assisted in improving democracy and human rights in that country in 2015-16; and if she will make a statement.

Answering member: Nick Hurd | Department for International Development

A stable, secure and prosperous Ethiopia is critical to millions of poor Ethiopians and the UK's national interest. UK support to Ethiopia, since 2010, has, for example, helped reduce poverty and child mortality by a quarter. Despite Ethiopia's remarkable progress against the Millennium Development Goals, we have concerns about their progress on civil and political rights. The UK's aid relationship with any government is based on an assessment of commitment to our partnership principles, including to human rights and international obligations.

DFID has supported Ethiopian civil society organisations to respond to the development priorities of poor people and to hold Government to account. In 2015-16 we have developed the capacity of institutions central to upholding accountability including; the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority, the

Office of the Federal Auditor General and the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

Engagements

11 May 2016 | 609 c626

Asked by: Philip Davies

May I support the Prime Minister on his comments about Nigeria and Afghanistan, and ask him to stop pouring hundreds of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money into those and other corrupt countries until they have cleaned up their act? While he is at it, will he tell us where he has the European Union in his league table of corruption, given that it has not had its accounts signed off for 20 years?

Answering member: David Cameron | Prime Minister

I thank, as ever, my hon. Friend for his help and support, and for his tips on diplomacy as well, which are useful given the past 24 hours. I would say to him that the leaders of countries such as Nigeria and Afghanistan are battling hard against very corrupt systems and countries. In both their cases they have made some remarkable steps forward, and that is why I am so keen to welcome them to the anti-corruption conference in London.

Where I part company with my hon. Friend is that I do not think it would be right to withdraw the aid that we give because, frankly, problems in those countries come back and haunt us here, whether they are problems of migration or problems of terrorism and all the rest of it. We are a country involved in a dangerous global world, and I see our aid budget, at 0.7%, alongside our defence budget, at 2% of our GDP, as ways of keeping us safe and prosperous in a dangerous world, as well as ways of fulfilling our important moral responsibilities.

Developing Countries: Contracts

11 May 2016 | 36648

Asked by: Edward Argar

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what weighting is given to bids made by British companies tendering for contracts from her Department for projects overseas.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

No additional weighting is given to bids made by British companies tendering for contracts for projects overseas.

100% of DFID aid assistance is untied. British companies have proven to be very successful, winning over 85% of contracts awarded by DFID and also competing successfully for contracts from other international development agencies.

[Libya](#)**10 May 2016 | 36664****Asked by: Patrick Grady**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to his oral statement of 19 April 2016, Official Report, column 782, how much of the £10 million in support for Libya will be counted towards (a) the Official Development Assistance target of 0.7 per cent of GNI, (b) the NATO defence spending target of 2 per cent GNI and (c) jointly towards both targets.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I can confirm that the vast majority of the £10 million allocated under the Conflict, Stability, and Security Fund (CSSF) for Libya in 2016/17 will qualify as Official Development Assistance (ODA). It is likely that some of the allocation for Libya – whether ODA or non ODA - will count towards the NATO defence spending target of 2 per cent of Gross National Income, but we would expect this to be small. It will not be possible to provide precise figures until the end of the financial year.

[Palestinians: Overseas Aid](#)**10 May 2016 | 36354****Asked by: Chloe Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how her Department measures the effectiveness of spending in the Palestinian territories by UN agencies to which her Department contributes funds.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

In the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) the UK provides funding to a number of UN agencies including the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Women, the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO). We monitor programmes throughout the year and annually assess their delivery against targets. DFID also monitors its results framework for the OPTs quarterly to ensure results being delivered are in line with those planned.

[Palestinians: Overseas Aid](#)**10 May 2016 | 36353****Asked by: Chloe Smith**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if she will make an assessment of the implications for her Department's policies on funding the UN Relief and Works Agency of the use of funding from that agency by a Palestinian NGO to organise a tree-planting ceremony honouring people including Palestinian terrorists.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

We have raised this allegation with the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) who have confirmed that UNRWA has no present relationship with the NGO in question, Union of Agriculture Workers Committees (UAWC). In monitoring DFID support for UNRWA, we pay stringent attention to their neutrality policy and values of peace. We maintain a close dialogue with UNRWA on neutrality issues, and we take allegations of incitement very seriously indeed, raising them whenever appropriate.

**[Topical Questions](#) International Development
04 May 2016 | 609 c159**

Asked by: Alec Shelbrooke

Does my right hon. Friend agree that our GDP would fall by more than 0.7% if we withdrew our investment from various stability projects around the world?

Answered by: Justine Greening | International Development

Absolutely. We know that conflict costs tens of billions of pounds of global GDP every year. We also know that simply enabling women to be more economically empowered would add tens of billions to global GDP every year, so what we are doing is not just good for the poorest people on our planet; it is in our national interest as well.

[Overseas Aid](#)

04 May 2016 | 904857

Asked by: Phillip Lee

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what measures she has put in place to improve ministerial oversight of aid programmes.

Answering member: Justine Greening | Department for International Development

I have introduced more stringent ministerial sign off controls and this is backed up by thorough monitoring and evaluation processes and management information to better identify underperforming programmes so they can be dealt with.

[Overseas Aid: Cost Effectiveness](#)

04 May 2016 | 35910

Asked by: Lisa Cameron

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that programmes implemented are cost-effective.

Answering member: Nick Hurd | Department for International Development

Each DFID project is rigorously appraised before approval to establish value for money. During implementation, projects are measured against a robust monitoring framework through mandatory annual reviews to ensure they remain cost effective. The results of these annual reviews are scored by the managing team and are then monitored through regular management information reports to management and Ministers. DFID is also committed to generating high quality evidence through independent evaluations which address relevant questions for policy and programming, including the cost- effectiveness of programmes.

We take decisions to exit underperforming programmes and redirect resources into those that deliver poverty reduction and value for money for taxpayers.

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid**04 May 2016 | 35651****Asked by: David Mackintosh**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what funding priorities her Department has in Bangladesh.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

Our priorities in Bangladesh reflect those of the wider UK Aid Strategy:

- Strengthening peace, security and governance
- Building Bangladesh's resilience to climate change and strengthening disaster preparedness
- Tackling extreme poverty, in both rural and urban areas and improving the quality of education and health services
- Promoting economic prosperity and inclusive growth, ensuring that no one in Bangladesh is left behind.

Running through all of these priorities is a commitment across all of our work to support women's empowerment and addressing early marriage, promoting voice and choice for all girls

Topical Questions International Development**04 May 2016 | 609 c159****Asked by: David Amess**

Does my right hon. Friend agree with VSO that the generous amount of money that the British people give in overseas aid has transformed the lives of children throughout the world as well as, in particular, in developing countries?

Answered by: Justine Greening | International Development

Yes, I do. We have supported 11 million children into school over the last five years and distributed 47 million bed nets, which has seen malaria deaths fall by two thirds over the last 15 years. We are helping

60 million people to get access to better water and sanitation. VSO, of course, is delivering a fantastic project for the International Citizen Service, too.

[Cotonou Agreement](#)

04 May 2016 | 609 c151

Asked by: Douglas Carswell

Does UK overseas aid still include revenue support, and does the Secretary of State not agree that such direct Government-to-Government aid often inhibits good governance? Far from encouraging democracy, it actually encourages kleptocracy.

Answered by: Justine Greening | International Development

The hon. Gentleman will be pleased to hear that we have curbed general budget support, which has been reduced by nearly 90% since 2010. There is now one remaining programme of general budget support, which will finish shortly.

I disagree that it is wrong to work with Governments. In the end, one way in which we can tackle corruption is by strengthening public finance management and tax revenue authorities. We need to find a balance and provide earmarked support that actually achieves an impact.

[Overseas Aid](#)

03 May 2016 | HL7836

Asked by: Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanisms the Department for International Development has in place to monitor the quality and real developmental impact of their aid programmes.

Answering member: Baroness Verma | Department for International Development

DFID has rigorous programme and financial management procedures and systems in place. This government has significantly strengthened these procedures and systems, placing a strong emphasis on ensuring programmes are high quality and deliver value for money and real development impact. Each DFID project is rigorously appraised before approval to establish value for money. During implementation, projects are measured against a robust monitoring framework through mandatory annual reviews to ensure they remain cost effective and are delivering expected outputs, outcomes and development impact. The results of these annual reviews are scored by the managing team and are then monitored through regular management information reports to management and Ministers. We take decisions to exit underperforming programmes and redirect resources into those that deliver poverty reduction and value for money for taxpayers.

DFID is also committed to generating high quality evidence through independent evaluations which look in detail at the impact that our interventions are having and what lessons can be learnt for the future.

In addition the Independent Commission for Aid Impact assesses the effectiveness of DFID's programming.

[Palestinians: Overseas Aid](#)

25 Apr 2016 | HL7413

Asked by: Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that UK aid to Palestine is not given, directly or indirectly, to the families of suicide bombers or to convicted prisoners.

Answering member: Baroness Verma | Department for International Development

UK aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is subject to rigorous scrutiny, with safeguards in place to ensure its being used for proper development purposes. Our financial assistance to the PA is used to pay the salaries of civil servant and pensioners. Our support is provided through a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank, which carries out close monitoring of PA expenditure. Only named civil servants from a pre-approved EU list are eligible, and the vetting process ensures that our funds do not benefit terrorist groups. The process is subject to independent auditing.

[Overseas Aid: Accountability](#)

21 Apr 2016 | 34174

Asked by: David Mackintosh

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that funding from the public purse for her Department's work (a) does not reach unintended destinations and (b) is tracked from its source to its intended project.

Answering member: Nick Hurd | Department for International Development

At every stage in the programme cycle DFID assesses and mitigates the risk that aid could be diverted from its intended purpose or project. DFID provided a comprehensive written answer on 29 March 2016 [Hansard ref 31732] which set out in more detail the steps DFID take to ensure that funding from the public purse for her Department's work (a) does not end up in unintended destinations and (b) is tracked from its source to its intended project. In addition, DFID's Counter Fraud and Whistleblowing Unit will take all necessary steps to investigate swiftly all allegations of corruption and fraud and pursue sanctions available in each case, including dismissal, prosecution, suspension and cancellation of aid.

[Overseas Aid: Culture](#)

20 Apr 2016 | 33847

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much her Department spent on cultural and arts projects overseas in 2014.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

During 2014, DFID did not disburse Official Development Assistance to any country for cultural and arts projects.

[Middle East: Overseas Aid](#)

19 Apr 2016 | 33574

Asked by: Margaret Ritchie

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much UK aid has been spent on programmes to support (a) children who have been conscripted as child soldiers by Daesh, (b) other children who have been held in captivity by Daesh and (c) women and girls who have been held in sexual slavery by Daesh.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

We are very concerned about appalling crimes committed by Daesh in Iraq and Syria, including against women and young children. We strongly condemn their use of sexual slavery, sexual violence, rape and kidnapping. Likewise, we have seen reports of children in Daesh-held areas being forced into military training after the militant group closed down their schools - leaving an estimated total of over 670,000 children without the opportunity of a proper education.

In Syria and Iraq, DFID continues to work with the UN and the international community to ensure all civilians' rights are protected. However, we do not earmark our aid as being solely for Daesh victims or victims of other groups. The UK is committed to supporting the most vulnerable people wherever they are, in accordance with international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality. Consequently all UK funded humanitarian assistance is distributed on the basis of need, and need alone, regardless of politics, religion, ethnicity or place of origin.

The UK has pledged over £2.3 billion for the response to the Syria crisis. Some of this funding is enabling partner agencies to provide specialist assistance to those affected by sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including safe spaces, psychosocial support, cash assistance and reproductive healthcare. By June 2015, UK assistance had provided SGBV focussed interventions to over 197,000 individuals in Syria and the region. In addition, more than 673,000 children have been reached with child protection initiatives across Syria and the region.

Ultimately, the best way of safeguarding these children is by defeating Daesh and establishing a lasting peace in both Syria and Iraq. The UK Government is committed to this aim: we have a comprehensive strategy for defeating Daesh and continue to work with our international partners and the UN towards a political settlement in Syria.

Overseas Aid

18 Apr 2016 | 33569

Asked by: Imran Hussain

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether funding for UK-based consultancy firms is included in the UK's 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product overseas development assistance target.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

Consultancy funding for UK-based firms is included in the UK's 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product overseas development assistance target.

Overseas Aid

18 Apr 2016 | 33319

Asked by: David Mackintosh

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps the Government is taking to raise awareness of the projects to which UK aid contributes abroad and of the long-term effect those projects have on the UK.

Answering member: Nick Hurd | Department for International Development

The Department for International Development's communications demonstrate how UK aid reduces extreme poverty, tackles global challenges and is in Britain's national interest.

We raise awareness of our work and its results in a number of different ways.

A recent example is the Supporting Syria and the Region conference in February. Through extensive work with the media and partners, we helped the public at home and abroad to understand why the conference was needed, how the money raised will make a difference, and how they can get involved. The public had more than 222m opportunities to see or hear about the conference; media coverage of the conference was extensive and overwhelmingly positive. We are continuing to communicate the longer-term impact of the conference and explain why supporting people in the region is in the UK's interest.

Another example is our recent work to mark International Women's Day. This positioned the UK as a world leader on securing rights for girls and women. Ministers attended eight public events to mark the day and spoke about DFID's work on girls and women. The public had 252m opportunities to see or hear about our activity through the media, and a further 1.5m people were reached through digital activity.

DFID has a strong following online and provides regular updates about its work and achievements through: Twitter (www.twitter.com/dfid_uk), Facebook (www.facebook.com/ukdfid) and Dev Tracker (devtracker.dfid.gov.uk).

[Overseas Aid](#)

15 Apr 2016 | 32939

Asked by: Julie Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, with reference to paragraph 1.59 of the Budget 2016, from which projects and programmes the £650 million reduction in Official Development Assistance will come.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

The £650 million reduction to the ODA budget will be from DFID's baseline budget. DFID's baseline budget includes transfers to other government departments and funds. Decisions on the allocation of reductions will be taken on the basis of the impact of expenditure and strategic fit with government objectives.

[Palestinians: Overseas Aid](#)

15 Apr 2016 | 32922

Asked by: Will Quince

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that UK Government aid to the Palestinian Territories is not used to help finance violence or terrorism.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

No UK aid is used for payments to Palestinian prisoners, or their families. The UK's direct financial assistance to the PA is used to pay the salaries of public sector workers only. Our support is provided through a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank, which carries out close monitoring of Palestinian Authority expenditure. Only named civil servants from a pre-approved EU list are eligible. The process is subject to independent auditing.

[Palestinians: Overseas Aid](#)

11 Apr 2016 | 32482

Asked by: John Howell

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what reports she has received on the use of aid disbursed to the Palestinian Authority for purposes related to terrorist activity.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

UK direct financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is used to pay the salaries of civil servant and pensioners. Our support is provided through a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank, which carries out close monitoring of PA expenditure. Only named civil servants from a pre-approved EU list are eligible, and the vetting process ensures that our funds do not benefit terrorist groups. The process is subject to independent auditing.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Overseas Aid**05 Apr 2016 | 28268****Asked by: Wendy Morton**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what his Department's spending was in Overseas Development Aid in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15 and (c) the first 10 months of 2015-16; and what the recipient countries of that aid were.

Answering member: Joseph Johnson | Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is recorded and reported on a calendar year basis. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is supporting economic development and social welfare in developing countries through a number of programmes. The Newton Fund builds science and innovation partnerships between the UK and 15 emerging economies; and the new Global Challenges Research Fund will help to put the UK at the forefront of research into some of the world's greatest challenges. BIS spent £48.5m in 2013, and £79m in 2014. This spend is broken down by recipient countries in the table. Where spend cannot be attributed to an individual country, it is attributed to appropriate groups. Details on 2015 calendar year ODA spend will be published in the National Statistics publication 'Provisional UK ODA as a proportion of Gross National Income (GNI)' on 1 April 2016, at a department level. Country level ODA information will be published in Statistics on International Development due for release in October 2016.

Department for Business Innovation and Skills Overseas Development Aid 2013 to 2014

Country	Amounts Extended (£thousands)	
	2013	2014
Africa, regional	3,987	9,840
Asia, regional	179	268
Brazil	65	180
Burkina Faso	180	182
Chile		30
China	913	2,885
Colombia		193
Developing countries, unspecified	19,868	33,968
Egypt		79
Ethiopia	64	86
Gambia	9,610	9,347
Ghana	566	598
India	1,322	5,407
Indonesia	190	198
Kazakhstan		298
Kenya	1,714	2,342
Lesotho		130

Malawi	156	1,819
Malaysia	220	226
Mali		161
Mauritania	169	118
Mexico	202	420
Nigeria	52	184
Oceania, regional	70	59
Papua New Guinea	860	522
Peru	199	190
Philippines		10
Sao Tome & Principe		95
Senegal		65
South Africa	1,701	1,573
South Asia, regional	327	641
South of Sahara, regional	441	
Sri Lanka		14
Sudan		449
Tanzania	535	662
Thailand		12
Turkey		11
Uganda	4,767	5,547
Vietnam		12
Zambia	188	204
Total	48,544	79,027

**[Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Overseas Aid](#)
01 Apr 2016 | 31275**

Asked by: Stephen Doughty

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what the value was of Official Development Assistance spent by his Department in each of the last six years; and what proportion of that assistance was subject to the International Development Act 2002.

Answering member: Joseph Johnson | Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Details on 2015 calendar year Official Development Assistance (ODA) spend will be published in the National Statistics publication 'Provisional UK ODA as a proportion of Gross National Income 2015' on 1 April 2016, at department level. I am therefore providing values for the 6 year period 2009-2014.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is building science and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging economies through the Newton Fund, which began in 2014. The Newton Fund is subject to the International Development Act 2002, whilst all other BIS ODA spend is not. However, all of the Department's ODA spending is in line with the aims of the International Development Act.

The Government is also introducing a new Global Challenges Research Fund of £1.5 billion over the next five years to ensure the UK's world-leading research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries. This will mean that BIS's ODA spend will increase over the current Spending Review period.

Table 1. The value of Official Development Assistance (ODA) spent by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, 2009-2014

	£m					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
total ODA	37.3	47.9	40.0	48.0	48.5	79.0
o/w ODA subject to IDA¹	-	-	-	-	-	4.6

¹ International Development Act 2002

source: DfID, Medical Research Council

[Palestinians: Overseas Aid](#)

30 Mar 2016 | HL7206

Asked by: Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 17 March (HL Deb, col GC298), how much new employment has followed the expenditure of £349 million by the Department for International Development for Palestinian economic development between 2011 and 2015.

Answering member: Baroness Verma | Department for International Development

DFID's support to the Occupied Palestinian Territories is delivering a range of results including enrolment of children in primary school, improvements to maternal health-care, humanitarian assistance and legal assistance to Palestinians at risk of eviction from their land. As part of this support, between 2011 and 2015, DFID provided over £3 million to the Facility for New Market Development Programme and Palestinian Market Development Programme, which has helped businesses expand into new markets and products, and supported the creation of over 2800 new jobs. DFID also provided £2 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency's which supported the creation of over 45,000 short-term jobs for Palestinians in Gaza who have been affected by movement and access restrictions.

[Gaza: Overseas Aid](#)

30 Mar 2016 | HL7205

Asked by: Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 17 March (HL Deb, col GC297), whether they will provide a breakdown of the £45 million spent in Gaza since October 2014.

Answering member: Baroness Verma | Department for International Development

In October 2014, the UK pledged £20 million in early recovery assistance at the Gaza Reconstruction Conference in Cairo. This included funding for reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation for those injured, clearance of unexploded ordnance, short term employment schemes, shelter and basic services, support to the private sector to reopen factories and businesses, funding for the UN's new construction materials monitoring mechanism, technical assistance and direct support to the Palestinian Authority. The UK has disbursed this pledge in its entirety. Since then the UK has provided more than £25 million of additional support to Gaza for a range of activities, including basic service delivery and further support to the private sector.

Overseas Aid

30 Mar 2016 | 32101

Asked by: Stephen Doughty

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what proportion of overseas development assistance was spent by departments other than her Department in each of the last six years; and what estimate her Department has made of that proportion for each year until 2019-20.

Answering member: Nick Hurd | Department for International Development

The information requested for the years 2009-2014 is published in 'Statistics on International Development 2015', which is available from our website www.dfid.gov.uk. Table 3 gives the breakdown of the percentage of Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by DFID and departments other than DFID. My Department will publish provisional UK ODA figures for 2015 on the 1st April.

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20: DFID will spend an estimated 72% of UK ODA; other departments and funds will spend an estimated 22% of UK ODA; and the remaining 6% will be non-departmental spend such as debt relief and gift aid. This information is based on ODA budget allocations by the government in order to meet its commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) on ODA in each calendar year. Adjustments will be made to the ODA budget to reflect the latest economic forecasts throughout the spending review period.

Overseas Aid

23 Mar 2016 | 31129

Asked by: Stephen Gethins

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department has made towards meeting the International Aid Transparency Initiative's standards to date.

Answering member: David Lidington | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

In March 2013 the Government published an implementation plan outlining how we intended to achieve International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) compliance without compromising the safety and security of the UK, our staff and our partners or without compromising our diplomatic relations with other countries. Since then we have been working towards achieving compliance with the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee. All published Foreign and Commonwealth Office Official Development Assistance information can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/official-development-assistance-oda--2>

Overseas Aid**22 Mar 2016 | 31203****Asked by: Diane Abbott**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if she will make an assessment of the extent to which recent changes to the OECD's Official Development Assistance (ODA) definition will divert ODA away from welfare programmes into military programmes.

Answering member: Justine Greening | Department for International Development

The recent DAC High Level Meeting was able to agree the first update in the ODA rules in over 40 years and reflect the changing nature of aid delivery. All of this is in line with the primary purpose of ODA - to support the economic development and welfare of development countries – and this has not changed.

Overseas Aid**17 Mar 2016 | 30874****Asked by: Imran Hussain**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what her Department's decision making process is on the (a) provision and (b) removal of (i) bilateral and (ii) other aid assistance programmes.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

DFID is undertaking a number of reviews, which aim to look across our portfolio to build the most effective response to deliver the Spending Review, the UK Aid Strategy and the Strategic Defence and Security Review. These include a review of the research portfolio, a Civil Society Partnership Review, a Multilateral Aid Review and a Bilateral Aid Review (BAR). The outcome of these reviews will collectively determine DFID's approach to delivering the UK Aid Strategy over the period of the Spending Review.

[Overseas Aid](#)

09 Mar 2016 | 29397

Asked by: Diane Abbott

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of allowing for more security-related expenditure within the definition of Official Development Assistance on maintaining a distinction between development cooperation and policing missions for security.

Answering member: Justine Greening | Department for International Development

The updates to the ODA rules agreed at the 2016 High Level Meeting (18-19 February 2016) mean that ODA can be used to support the military in fragile countries on issues that promote development, such as human rights and the prevention of sexual violence; this means the international community is better equipped to meet Global Goal 16, which calls for the stronger governance in developing countries to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

[Overseas Aid](#)

07 Mar 2016 | 29058

Asked by: Jim Shannon

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps the Government is taking to stop the black market economy in aid allocations.

Answering member: Desmond Swayne | Department for International Development

DFID's work on the black market is primarily related to illicit markets and organised crime. We are building the evidence base on the linkages between organised crime, development and conflict, and exploring innovative integrated approaches to tackling organised crime in partnership with other government departments. Our work in this area is focused on building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to organised crime, increasing transparency, and mitigating harm. Examples of our work related to organised crime include:

- The Work in Freedom programme, which helps prevent 100,000 women and girls from India, Bangladesh and Nepal from being trafficked;
- Tackling Corruption by Tackling Drug Trafficking in Ghana, which focuses on improving detection of drug smuggling by the Narcotic Control Board, and increasing criminal proceedings against those involved;
- The Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, managed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, supports projects that develop sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by illegal wildlife trade, strengthen law enforcement, and reduce demand for the products of the illegal wildlife trade;

- Working to tackle illicit finance in partnership with the Metropolitan and City of London Police, the National Crime Agency and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Overseas Aid

03 Mar 2016 | 28916

Asked by: Gregory Campbell

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what estimate she has made of the cost in cash terms of the UK maintaining Official Development Assistance at 0.7 per cent of gross national income in financial year 2016-17.

Answering member: Justine Greening | Department for International Development

Based on the Office for Budgetary Responsibility's (OBR) Autumn Statement GNI forecasts, the UK is projected to spend £13.6m on Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2016 in order to meet the 0.7 per cent of gross national income commitment.

Overseas Aid

02 Mar 2016 | 28265

Asked by: Wendy Morton

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what his Department's spending was on Overseas Development Aid in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15 and (c) the first 10 months of 2015-16; and what the recipient countries of that aid were.

Answering member: David Lidington | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Official Development Assistance spending was:

in financial year (FY) 2013-14 - £321 million;

in FY 2014-15 - £344 million;

and in the first 10 months of FY 2015-16 - £260 million

We have provided ODA funds to all countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list except for Central

African Republic, Djibouti, Sao Tome and Principe, Micronesia, Tokelau, Gabon, Niue, Palau, Wallis and Futuna. The DAC list can be found here:

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20of%20ODA%20Recipients%202014%20final.pdf>.

6. Other Parliamentary material

Early Day Motions

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPENDING TARGET

EDM 239 (session 2014-15)

Roger Williams

8 July 2014

That this House welcomes the presentation of the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Bill and looks forward to its second reading on 12 September 2014; highlights the cross-party consensus on development aid which underpins the UK's commitment to fulfilling the UN target to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on official development assistance; and further welcomes the Bill's intent to enshrine this level of development spending in law.

Debates

Bill stages — International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015

Dates for all stages of the passage of the Bill, including links to the debates.

7. Further reading

Department for International Development and HM Treasury, *UK aid: tackling global challenges in the national interest*, Cm 9163, November 2015

Managing the Official Development Assistance target, *National Audit Office*, 16 January 2015

[International Development Committee \(website\)](#)

[UK aid: allocation of resources: interim report](#), Third Report of Session 2015–16, International Development Committee, HC 927, 22 March 2016

[Statistics on International Development 2015](#), *Department for International Development*, December 2015

[Statistics on International Development 2014](#), *Department for International Development*, October 2014

[Statistics on International Development 2013](#), *Department for International Development*, October 2013

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