



**Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office**

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
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Sarah Champion
Chair, International Development Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Sarah

I was pleased to give evidence to the International Development Committee on Thursday 22 April. During the session I agreed to write on a number of points as follows.

Funding for Westminster Foundation for Democracy and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP asked about FCDO funding for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK).

We are committed to ensuring that both organisations can continue their important work. We are working through the details of the final allocations for CPA UK and WFD and will meet them shortly to discuss the outcome of the ODA allocation process.

I can confirm that WFD will receive a minimum of £3.5m core funding this year to continue their work on open societies and democracy and officials will be meeting them to discuss their total ODA allocation in the coming weeks.

Unitaid

Ian also asked about our relationship with Unitaid, who play an important role in improving equitable access to medicines and diagnostics for people affected by HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and Covid-19 in lower income countries. As I set out in my Written Ministerial Statement, the FCDO is spending £1,305m on global health in 2021-22. Ministers have communicated to Unitaid that the UK's contribution this financial year will be £6m.

Impact assessment

You and Chris Law MP asked about impact assessment during the allocation process. All programmes consider impact on gender equality and people with protected characteristics during programme design. During the allocation process, officials considered risks and impacts to inform advice to Ministers.

An overarching Equalities Assessment analysed impacts across bilateral country spend. This was considered by Ministers as they reviewed plans. As I mentioned during the hearing, the assessment showed no evidence that programmes targeting those with protected characteristics are more likely to be reduced or discontinued than other programmes.

Devtracker

You asked when information on global health allocations would be uploaded to Devtracker. Information on all HMG ODA spend and results will appear on Devtracker throughout the financial year as grants and contracts are updated and data is published to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). The FCDO updates IATI data monthly, usually on the last working day of the month, although other government departments and partners have different publication frequencies.

Investments in science and technology

You asked that I write with illustrations of the effectiveness of our investments in science and technology. Firstly, we are very proud to have led globally on early funding and engagement with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to enable the development of Covid-19 vaccines, including the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine which will save countless lives globally.

Secondly, I would highlight our investment in clean energy technologies. By 2020, this UK investment has enabled energy access by 5 million people in developing countries, avoiding 630,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, and leveraged £490m in further investment from private and public sources. Thirdly, we funded the scientists who developed the world's first child-friendly anti-malarial drug. This has been distributed in more than 50 countries and is estimated to have saved more than a million young lives.

Overall, we will spend £583m, approximately 6%, UK ODA on R&D (£251m by the FCDO and £332m across BEIS and DHSC). The ODA allocations for BEIS and DHSC were agreed in January.

Crisis Reserve

Pauline Latham MP asked about the Humanitarian Crisis Reserve. This is intended to allow us to respond to rapid onset emergencies as they occur. This financial year, it has already allowed us to provide emergency assistance in response to volcanic eruptions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which saw more than 15,000 people evacuated. We continue to respond to protracted crises on the frontline through our overall humanitarian portfolio.

ODA spend on LGBT rights

You asked about ODA spend on LGBT rights projects. The UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of LGBT human rights across the world. We remain committed to funding LGBT rights projects and activities through our overseas missions and central programme. Final programme allocations will be published will be published in our regular Statistics on International Development website and in the FCDO Annual Report and Accounts later this year.

Justice Mechanisms

Navendu Mishra MP requested an update on what we are doing to support the justice sector in other countries. The UK continues to fund the Rule of Law Expertise UK (ROLE UK) programme to strengthen justice systems overseas by providing high-quality pro-bono legal and judicial expertise.

ROLE UK is currently working through 40 partnerships with legal organisations and institutions across a range of countries. In Nigeria, ROLE UK is supporting a partnership between the Nigerian Bar Association and the British Bar Human Rights Committee to increase awareness among Nigerian lawyers on how to use international and regional legal mechanisms to address human rights violations. Following the abolition of the mandatory death penalty in Uganda, UK support through Evolve (Foundation for International Legal Assistance) is working to improve sentencing practices and to promote respect for human rights.

Financial terms

Chris Law MP requested definitions of the following terms:

- **Financial Transactions.** In line with HM Treasury guidance, Financial Transactions are investments in financial assets, such as lending or equity transactions, that generate a return for their investment at a concessional level therefore counting towards ODA. This category includes the FCDO's capital increases to CDC and Development Banks, and financial investments that create an asset on our balance sheet such as loans or investments in small enterprises. HM Treasury set a spending ring-fence for Financial Transactions at the spending review of £863m for 2021/22.
- **Cross-Cutting Themes.** This category includes discretionary spend that is not directly attributable to the other thematic categories. This mainly constitutes our contribution to the International Development Association (IDA) and other Developments Banks (excluding General Capital Increases which, as above, count towards Financial Transactions).
- **Arm's Length Bodies.** This includes ODA-eligible funding to non-departmental public bodies such as our Scholarships programmes, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, and Independent Commission for Aid Impact. Further information on our arm's length bodies can be found at Official Development Assistance (ODA): Arms Length Bodies and Soft Power Programmes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- **International Subscriptions.** International subscriptions represent core funding to organisations that are not directly attributable to other thematic areas. This includes funding to Commonwealth organisations, and the Council of Europe.
- **Fixed costs.** These cover the ODA-eligible elements of the FCDO's operating costs, including staffing.

Safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH)

Pauline Latham MP asked whether money for safeguarding work was being removed from programme budgets as a result of the budget allocations for 2021/22. Since early 2018, the FCDO has encouraged partners to include costs and to build SEAH considerations into tender processes and funding proposals. We will continue to do so.

In 2021/22, we will also continue to fund specific safeguarding initiatives to prevent SEAH in the first place, take action against perpetrators, provide support to survivors, victims and whistleblowers when it does occur, and build the safeguarding capability of all our partners, including smaller civil society organisations.

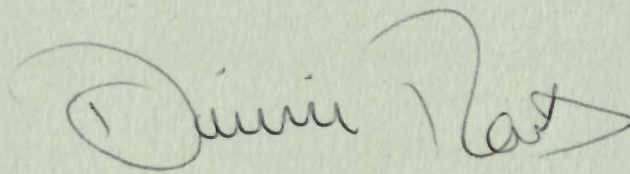
Ukraine

You asked about UK funding for Ukraine. Final country budgets, alongside audited spend for 2020/21, will be published in our regular Statistics on International Development website and in the FCDO Annual Report and Accounts later this year. Over the last year, the UK has provided £40 million to support the long-term security, stability and prosperity of Ukraine. This included a range of projects covering conflict management, security and defence capacity building, support to Ukraine's economic and governance reforms, Ukraine's anti-corruption agenda, tackling causes of gender inequality and support for the Government of Ukraine's efforts to fight disinformation. As part of this, the FCDO provided £5 million to address humanitarian and early recovery needs in eastern Ukraine. We are also working with the Ukrainian government to improve its offer to conflict affected communities by shifting our focus from dealing with the consequences of the conflict to a longer term 'stabilisation' approach. This will assist Ukraine in building a vision for inclusive peace and preparing communities for the eventual reintegration of non-government controlled areas once a political solution allows.

Girls' Education

Virendra Sharma MP asked for further information on girls education budgets and spend. As I set out in the Written Ministerial Statement, the FCDO will spend £400 million of bilateral ODA on girls' education in the next year, investing directly in over 25 countries in support of our global target of getting 40 million girls into school and 20 million more able to read by the age of 10. This very substantial sustained investment of UK ODA is only one of our tools in achieving our ambitions. This year we will be co-hosting the Global Education Summit with Kenya and using our G7 Presidency to rally the international community to step up support to girls' education alongside UK contributions.

You asked.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Raab', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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