United Kingdom, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

UK-BEIS (69.9)
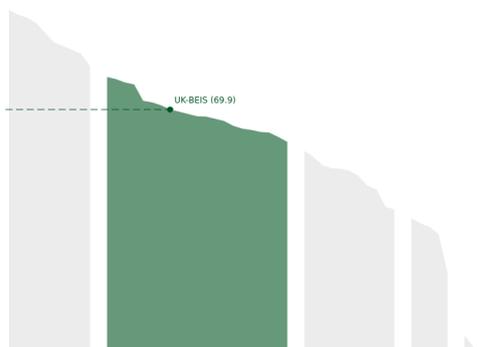
SCORE: 69.9	POSITION: 18/50	2022 GOOD

OVERVIEW

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has been administering Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds since 2014. As the second largest spender in 2020, its share increased to 6.9% of the UK ODA budget (£807m) which was split across two major funding streams, research & innovation and climate finance. BEIS oversees two research funds, the Newton fund and the Global Challenges Research Fund. It delivers the UK's International Climate Finance (ICF) along with The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). BEIS started publishing to the IATI registry in 2018 and added the bulk of their project data in 2019.

Organisational planning and commitments
12.7 / 15

Finance and budgets
15.5 / 25

Project attributes
14.7 / 20

Joining-up development data
16.9 / 20

Performance
10 / 20

ANALYSIS

This is the first year BEIS has been assessed in the Aid Transparency Index. It was assessed in the 2020 UK Aid Review where it scored 72.2. It performs less well across all five components this year, although it still ranks fifth out of the bilateral donors in this 2022 Aid Transparency Index. BEIS continues to publish data to the IATI registry on a quarterly basis.

For the organisational planning and commitments component it decreased the transparency of its documentation by failing to publish an up to date allocation policy. It did however provide up to date reports and strategies in its organisational file.

BEIS also scored well in the project attributes component with above average scores for most of the indicators where it disclosed basic project details such as titles, descriptions and dates for close to 100% of its IATI activities. As in the 2020 review, there were still improvements to be made in sub-national locations, less than one percent of the activities reviewed were found to have detailed geolocations while just over two percent had conditionalities disclosed.

BEIS did less well in the finance and budgets component, scoring poorly in comparison to other donors in the 'good' category. For project-level financial data, particularly project budgets, disclosure is poor although it has started to publish disbursements and expenditures consistent across all activities. BEIS provided three year forward-looking budgets but was not transparent about the disaggregation of these organisational budgets.

In joining up development data, BEIS improved on its transparency since 2020 as it published standardised codes and references across 100% of its activities. It did not however disclose its procurement contracts and tenders in its IATI data, these were instead found in other formats on its website. BEIS also scored poorly in the new organisation references test publishing only 35% of standardised references across its activities.

Finally, BEIS failed to improve the transparency of its performance data. It continued to score above average for project objectives, but only published results, impact appraisals and evaluations for less than six percent of its activities.

- BEIS needs to focus on producing more and better performance data, so users can view outcomes against their clear objectives.
- It should aim to publish data on a monthly basis.
- BEIS should start to publish its contracts and tenders in the IATI Standard so that these are more easily accessible for users.
- BEIS should improve its project level financial data, particularly for the large funds it administers.
- BEIS should also continue to provide disaggregated budgets at organisational level.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 12.7 / 15

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at the overall aims and strategy of an organisation. We check for any public commitments to aid transparency. We also make sure audits are published and if planning documents have been published, including by parent organisations (including national governments) where applicable. We make note of any Freedom of Information laws and critically, we make sure that organisations have tried to make their information easy to access and understand. You should not have to be an expert in open data to be able to find and use this information.

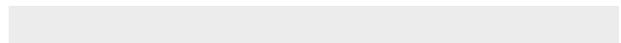**Quality of FOI legislation** Score: 1.88

Accessibility Score: 1.88

Organisation strategy Score: 1.87

Annual report Score: 1.87

Allocation policy Score: 0

Procurement policy Score: 1.87

Strategy (country/sector) or Memorandum of Understanding Score: 1.46

**Audit** Score: 1.87

Finance and budgets

Score: 15.5 / 25

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component is critical to allow you and anyone else to follow the money. We expect to find the total budget of the organisation being assessed, right down to individual transactions for each development activity. In particular, forward-looking budgets from donors are important for partner country governments to be able to plan their own future finances.
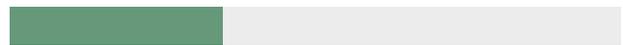
Total organisation budget — Score: 4.17

Disaggregated budget — Score: 0
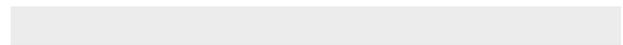
Project budget — Score: 1.77

Project budget document — Score: 1.16

Commitments — Score: 3.16

Disbursements and expenditures — Score: 3.02

Budget Alignment — Score: 2.22

Project attributes

Score: 14.7 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component refers to descriptive, non-financial data, including basics like the title and description of a project. Information like this is important as it is often the entry point for data users to quickly understand what a project is about. We also look for other information that helps to put a project in context, such as its sub-national location or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.

Title — Score: 0.95

Description — Score: 2.85

Planned dates — Score: 0.95

Actual dates — Score: 0.95

Current status — Score: 0.95

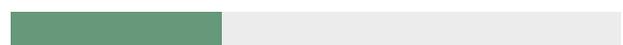**Contact details** — Score: 0.95

Sectors — Score: 2.37

Sub-national location — Score: 1.17
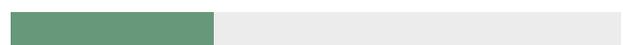
Conditions — Score: 1.22
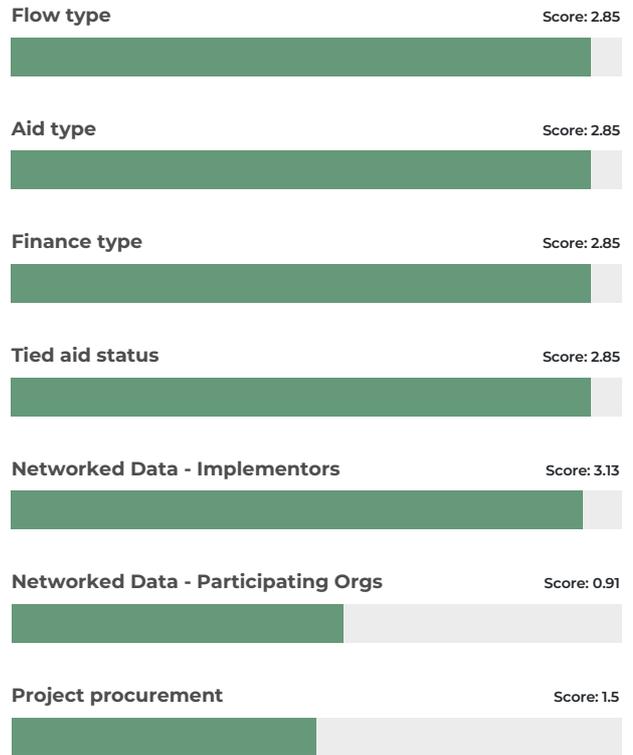
Unique ID — Score: 2.37

Joining-up development data

Score: 16.9 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at how well an organisation's data is able to be linked and connected with other bits of information. There is a diverse nature of flows, activities and actors within the development sector. Aid and development finance data needs to be effectively linked and connected with the rest to provide a full picture for the user. This can be particularly important for partner country governments, which need to integrate information on aid with their own budgets and systems.

Flow type Score: 2.85

Aid type Score: 2.85

Finance type Score: 2.85

Tied aid status Score: 2.85

Networked Data - Implementors Score: 3.13

Networked Data - Participating Orgs Score: 0.91

Project procurement Score: 1.5

Performance

Score: 10 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component refers to the essential data and documents that assess whether a project is on track or has been achieved. This includes things like baseline surveys, progress against targets, mid-term reviews and end of project evaluations. This information is important to hold aid organisations to account and also to share knowledge with others on what worked and what did not during a project.

Objectives Score: 4.74

Pre-project impact appraisals Score: 1.74

Reviews and evaluations Score: 1.84

Results Score: 1.71