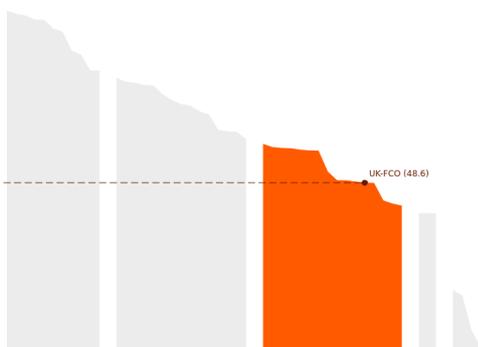


United Kingdom, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)



SCORE: 48.6	POSITION: 38/47	2020 FAIR
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OVERVIEW

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) official development assistance (ODA) spending increased by £267m since 2014, and now totals £633m, which was 4.4 percent of the United Kingdom's (UK) ODA in 2018, making it the third largest ODA spending department. This includes overseas diplomacy-related costs in ODA-eligible countries (Frontline Diplomatic Activity) and some contributions to multilateral organisations. FCO's ODA also funds activities of the British Council and BBC World Service. The FCO first published to the IATI registry in 2013 and now publishes data about more than 300 active projects. In addition, the FCO spends significant amounts of ODA from cross-government funds, including the Prosperity Fund and the Conflict, Stability, and Security Fund.

2018 POOR	2014 POOR	2013 POOR
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Organisational planning and commitments
13.1 / 15

Finance and budgets
8.8 / 25

Project attributes
14 / 20

Joining-up development data
12.7 / 20

Performance
0 / 20

ANALYSIS

The FCO ranked in the bottom five of the 'fair' category in the 2020 Index. This is a noteworthy move up from the 'poor' category in the 2018 Aid Transparency Index. The FCO increased its publication to the IATI Registry from annual to quarterly, for which we awarded it additional points across its IATI activity-related indicators. The FCO improved its scores in the **organisational planning and commitments** and **finance and budgets** components since the 2018 index.

In the **organisational planning and commitments** component, the FCO scored its highest points. It published documents across the majority of the indicators here, including a current allocation policy that it made available for the 2020 Index. However, it can make improvements on its country strategies documentation, as we only found programme summaries.

The FCO slightly improved on its **project attributes** score since 2018. It published high quality descriptions and titles in the IATI format. However, it did not publish sub-national location data, so it lost points there. The FCO can also improve its data on implementer names and project activity dates, which were available for less than half of its activities.

The FCO published good quality IATI data for four out of the seven indicators in the **joining-up development data** component. These were: aid type, flow type, finance type, and tied aid status. However, project conditions and contracts/tenders failed our IATI quality checks because they were too generic and did not meet the criteria.

We awarded the FCO 35 percent of the available points in the **finance and budgets** component. It improved upon its 2018 score by publishing more of its disbursement and expenditure data, some budget alignment information, and a one-year forward looking organisational budget. The project budget document failed our quality checks as we could not find any line-item project budget break downs. The FCO is still not publishing commitments data in the IATI Registry. It did not make a disaggregated organisational budget.

The FCO scored no points in the **performance** component. It published documents against the indicators but these all failed our data quality checks. Documents generally failed as they did not

indicators but these all failed our data quality checks. Documents generally failed as they did not meet the criteria because they were too general, summaries were published rather than full versions of documents, or they were not specific to the project in question.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- FCO should improve the quality and comprehensiveness of key data sets such as commitments, contracts and tenders and sub-national locations.
- FCO now publishes key organisational planning documentation, such as its overall allocations policy, but it should also publish its country/sector strategies.
- FCO should improve its publication of key documents including those related to project performance, project budgets, and contracts, all of which failed sampling in the 2020 Index

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 13.1 / 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 in place 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: 1.88



Annual report

Score: 1.88



Allocation policy

Score: 1.88



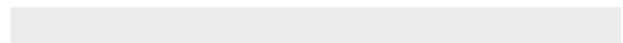
Procurement policy

Score: 1.88



Strategy (country/sector) or Memorandum of Understanding

Score: 0



Audit

Score: 1.88



Finance and budgets

Score: 8.8 / 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

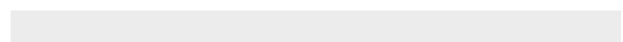
Disaggregated budget

Score: 0



Project budget

Score: 0

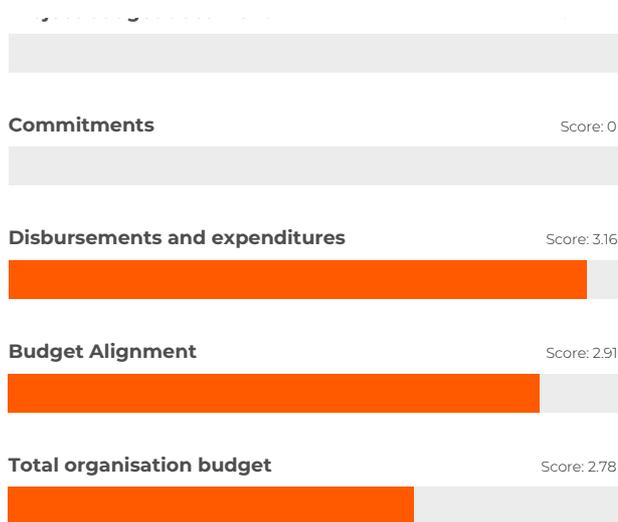


Project budget document

Score: 0



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.



Project attributes

Score: 14 / 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 (rather than simply being pin pointed to a capital city or the centre of a country) or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.



Joining-up development data

Score: 12.7 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at how well a donor'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, who need to integrate information on aid with their own budgets and systems.

Flow type Score: 3.17



Aid type Score: 3.17



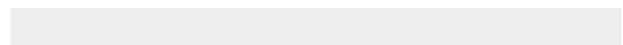
Finance type Score: 3.17



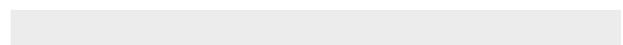
Tied aid status Score: 3.17



Conditions Score: 0



Project procurement Score: 0



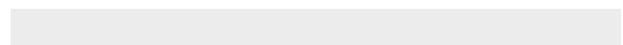
Performance

Score: 0 / 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 donors to account and also to share knowledge with others on what worked and what did not during a project.

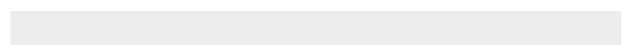
Objectives Score: 0



Pre-project impact appraisals Score: 0



Reviews and evaluations Score: 0



Results Score: 0

