



Department
for International
Development



Mr B Silvester
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8 October 2018

Dear Mr Silvester

Freedom of Information Request F2018-373

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 7 September in which you asked for the following information:

What countries does DFID give aid to?

How much aid did each of those countries receive in 2017,2016,2015,2014 and 2013?

DFID records and publishes information on aid spending by the UK Government on an annual basis in our report called '[Statistics International Development](#)' (SID). This is the main, most comprehensive official report on UK aid spending and includes spending by all UK government departments. Information detailing how much DFID spent on Overseas Aid and to which countries can be found at the links provided below:

[2013](#), [2014](#), [2015](#), [2016](#)

Information covering financial year 2017 will be published in the next edition of SID which will be available on GOV.UK towards the end of the year. As this information is intended for future publication, it is exempt from disclosure at this point under Section 22 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have set out our analysis of the public interest factors relating to this exemption later in this letter.

How much of the £14bn annual budget is spent on aid and how much on administration?

Information on how much of DFID's 2017-18 budget is spent on aid and how much on operating costs can be found on page 17 of the [Annual Report and Accounts](#).

How many staff (FTEs) does DFID employ?

Information on the number of staff employed by DFID can be found on page 82 of the [Annual Report and Accounts](#).

Section 22 (1) (Information intended for future publication)

Section 22 (1) (a) (b) and (c) provides that information is exempt information if it is held by a public authority with a view to publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date. In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in disclosing the information against the public interest in withholding it.

Factors in favour of disclosure include the general public interest in transparency and openness around the amount and use of public money spent by the UK government on international development. There is a strong public interest in ensuring that this information is available for public scrutiny.

Factors against disclosure include the strong public interest in making the best use of public resources by pulling the information together; ensuring that it is accurate and publishing it in a consistent and comprehensive format as planned. The information we intend to publish in future editions of 'Statistics for International Development' has not yet been finalised. As we have a well-established annual reporting process already in place we have concluded that the public interest in withholding this information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it at this point in time.

Please contact me, quoting reference number F2018-373, if you have any questions about this letter.

If you are unhappy with the service we have provided and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Information Rights Team at the address shown in the footnote below or email foi@dfid.gov.uk within two months of the date of this letter.

If you do make a complaint and are not content with the outcome, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted DFID's complaints procedure. You can contact the Information Commissioner at the following address: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Alan Morrison
Information Rights Team
Department for International Development