



HM Treasury

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Mr James Drummond

Via email:

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www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

26 November 2018

Ref: FOI2018/19763

Dear Mr Drummond

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Aid/Funding Grants

Thank you for your enquiry of 3 November 2018, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"

As published by UK Government to inform UK citizens various forms of aid/funding to support other nations together with members of the Commonwealth Nations.

Under freedom of information would you please advise who decides the financial amounts and on what basis are the forms of aid/funding calculated?

How many of these nations receiving UK aid/funding have a Nuclear weapons program, space and space orbital craft programs together operating within a negative GDP?

How many of these nations in receipt of UK aid/funding are ones that source goods from UK sources? "

Following a search of our records I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold some information within the scope of your request. The following information sets out the framework for the setting of the UK aid budget and HM Treasury's role in that process. To the extent that the information is already published and reasonably accessible to you, section 21 of the FOI Act does not require us to separately provide that information to you. Instead, I have provided links to where that information can be found.

HM Treasury is responsible for setting and allocating government departmental budgets at each Spending Review and for adjusting these budgets as necessary at each fiscal event (currently Autumn Budget and Spring Statement). The current Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget envelope, often termed as the "aid budget", was set by HM Treasury at the last spending review 2015 and has been adjusted at the 2016, 2017 and 2018 budgets (please see below links):

Spending Review 2015 (Clause 1.70):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479749/52229_Blue_Book_PU1865_Web_Accessible.pdf

Budget 2016 (Clause 1.59):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508193/HMT_Budget_2016_Web_Accessible.pdf

Autumn Budget 2017 (Clause 1.55):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661480/autumn_budget_2017_web.pdf

Budget 2018 (Clause 5.29):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752202/Budget_2018_red_web.pdf

In 2015, the UK Government passed the 'International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015' which set a legal duty on the UK to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) as ODA, in line with the United Nations target. The amount that HM Treasury allocates to departments to be spent as ODA is set based on the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts of GNI in order to meet the legal commitment of 0.7%.

International Development Act 2015:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/12/pdfs/ukpga_20150012_en.pdf

October 2018 OBR forecasts:

<https://obr.uk/efo/economic-fiscal-outlook-october-2018/>

I have provided information on HM Treasury's role in the allocation of the aid budget to spending departments. Those departments are then responsible for deciding how the funds should be spent and to whom they should be awarded, subject to normal Treasury spending guidance and approval processes. In relation to your questions on UK aid funding to specific nations and the eligibility criteria, we do not therefore hold the specific information you are asking for.

The Government is clear that in meeting its responsibilities to the world's poorest through its aid commitments, the UK also protects its own security and interests. As set out in the UK's Aid Strategy, the UK aid budget is used to tackle 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. There is no distinction between reducing poverty, tackling global challenges and serving our national interest - all are inextricably linked. I have provided a link to the UK's Aid Strategy below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-aid-tackling-global-challenges-in-the-national-interest>

The following published information may be of interest to you.

Data on where UK ODA is spent is published by the Department for International Development (DFID).

DFID Statistics on International Development:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-international-development-2017>

The Development Tracker shows in detail the international development projects led by DFID, other government departments and partners.

<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/>

If you require further information, you may wish to direct your enquiries to the various ODA spending departments.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

IRU

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If you are not happy with this reply, you can request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury which is outlined above.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (or via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk>).

