

Governance

Good governance is at the heart of our Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds. Strategy is set by the research and innovation ODA board and policy is delivered by an officials' group.

BEIS meets regularly with its delivery partners to review performance, share lessons learned and ensure progress against strategies. BEIS tracks spending and reports regularly to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, which publishes detailed annual statistics and data.

Research and Innovation ODA Board

The ODA Board is the highest authority responsible for the strategic direction of BEIS ODA Research and Innovation funds:

- Chaired by the UK Minister for Science with representation from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the BEIS Chief Scientific Advisor.
- Provides strategic and political oversight of R&I ODA spend, including fund strategy and coherence with x-Whitehall priorities.
- Holds officials to account.
- Oversees plans for evaluation, and engages with other groups in government on ODA funding.
- Not accountable for value for money, ODA compliance or financial management. These are delegated to the research and innovation ODA officials' group and delivery partners.

Research and innovation ODA officials' group (POMB)

This group is known as the Portfolio and Operations Management Board (POMB). It supports the R&I ODA Board in all operational, programme and policy matters related to the delivery of research and innovation funds. Responsible for:

- Alignment with existing strategies.
- Programme level portfolios and their link with the strategies.
- Monitoring and evaluation, focussing on impacts of the programmes.
- Financial management, including reporting arrangements, monitoring spend, and approving in-year adjustments.
- Communications.
- Learning and development.
- ODA compliance.
- Alignment with the UK Aid Strategy.
- Transparency commitments.
- Managing risks.

Advice

The ODA board and officials' group is supported by advisory, coordination and compliance groups. The main ones are below.

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)

The SAG is a non-executive group which provides expert advice on the strategic development and delivery of GCRF.

Members use their knowledge and networks to advise on:

- A strategic research agenda and prioritisation of challenge topics
- The effectiveness of delivery partners' strategies and mechanisms including new mechanisms to fill gaps
- Integration of ODA and non-ODA challenge research
- Allocation of research funding
- Engagement with our stakeholder communities.

Its diverse membership is drawn from academia, government, the science and research sector and the development sector. Members represent a range of disciplines perspectives.

Research and Innovation Delivery and Learning Group (DLG)

The DLG is a BEIS-led group which focuses on information sharing. It combines standard updates (programmatic, finance etc) on activities, with a joint consideration of emerging issues, and shared learning sessions. It serves as a forum for BEIS and delivery partners to share information with each other. It focusses on:

- Delivery partner updates on activities
- Delivery partner concerns or issues to highlight
- Cascade of, and discussion of, fund level developments from BEIS
- External speakers on relevant issues, safeguarding, gender etc.
- Fund level standard updates, finances, forecasts, risk, monitoring and evaluation
- Shared learning by delivery partners, whether thematic, country specific, or in programme administration
- Sharing of cross-governmental ODA learning by BEIS with delivery partners

Strategic Coherence of ODA-funded Research (SCOR) Board

The SCOR Board is an independent external group which provides an overall perspective and strategic advice on the UK's ODA-funded research activities. It is a collective of government departments with research ODA programmes and the Wellcome Trust. It focusses on:

- Identifying synergies and new opportunities for joint-working.
- Identifying strategic gaps that require new research.
- Reducing risk of duplication across the different funds.
- Maximising opportunities to leverage funding.
- Ensuring value for money on research for development investments.
- Supporting more coherent funding arrangements to support translation.
- Sharing information, learning and best practice.
- Ensuring that HMG's ODA and Wellcome funded science and research is having maximum impact on international development objectives and outcomes in developing countries.
- Providing reassurance to Ministers on HMG's strategic and collaborative approach to ODA-funded research for development.

