

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE'S BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE - FURTHER INFORMATION

CONFLICT, STABILITY AND SECURITY FUND (CSSF)

Q33-35 Please specify whether the FCO funding for UN peacekeeping which now comes from the CSSF corresponds directly to the FCO funding for UN peacekeeping which used to come from the Conflict Pool, and whether any elements of UK Government funding for UN peacekeeping have transferred between the FCO and other Government departments.

The only change in the peacekeeping element of the CSSF is that Special Political missions are now funded from this whereas previously these were funded from the FCO core budget. No element of funding for UN peacekeeping has been transferred from the FCO to other government departments.

Q36-7. Please summarise the process by which the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund is authorised by Parliament and distributed, and how the amounts distributed to the FCO are spent.

The CSSF is authorised as a specific Settlement, and is allocated to DFID's baseline at the start of each Financial Year, but ringfenced from its core Departmental budget. The NSC decides on funding distribution, which is carried out by a budget transfer to delivery Departments within days of the new Financial Year commencing. Parliament is informed via a Written Ministerial Statement detailing the allocations. Distribution of CSSF funding by Department and theme is provided in the tables below. The CSSF integrates a range of pre-existing activity including the conflict pool, peacekeeping budget and deployed military activity. The settlement also includes an additional £200m of ODA.

Thematic allocations £m	FY 14/15	15/16
Peacekeeping	374	442
Afghanistan	26.8	19.5
Afghanistan Military and Security	0	170
Africa	53.7	77
Americas	0	9.5
Asia Pacific	0	7
Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	6.6	22.5
Middle East and North Africa	60	136.5
South Asia	20.5	23.3
Western Balkans	10.8	11
Multilateral and Front Line Support	22.8	26.9
Rapid Response Mechanism	20	20
UNFICYP (UN Cyprus Peacekeeping Mission)	17.8	17.8
DMAP (Deployed Military Activity Pool)	0	50
Total	613	1033

Departmental allocations 15/16	£m
FCO	738.8
Ministry of Defence	191.5
Department for International Development	59.9
Others (e.g National Crime Agency, Home Office, Crown Prosecution Service)	42.81
Total	1033.01

Q39 Please indicate, approximately if necessary, what proportion of FCO staff is employed in posts dependent on work funded through the CSSF.

FCO CSSF funding is directly paying for 160 staff to directly manage and deliver CSSF programmes. This is 1.4% of the 11,800 FCO headcount, but there will also be a number of core FCO staff, UK-based and in Posts in the countries/regions below, who contribute to and help deliver CSSF programming.

Countries/regions with FCO overseas staff supporting CSSF programmes			
South Caucasus	Bangladesh	Somalia	Serbia
Ukraine and Moldova	Sudan	OPTs	Burma
Central Asia	Nigeria	Jordan	Caribbean
Bosnia	Sahel	Bahrain	Peru
Kosovo	Africa Continental	Egypt	Afghanistan
Macedonia	DRC & Region	Syria	Pakistan
Sri Lanka	East Africa	Lebanon	Colombia
Iraq	Libya	Yemen	

NET OUTTURN

Q76 Please confirm to the Committee the reasons for the £90 million overspend under Line A of the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit for 2014-15, as set out on page 68 of the FCO Annual Report and Accounts. Q77 and 79 Please explain the reason for the £97 million underspend under Line B of the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit for 2014-15, as set out on page 68 of the FCO Annual Report and Accounts for 2014-15.

Lines A and B together reflect the core spending of the FCO with Line B representing the “Grant” element of it. Neither line is a control total and in this case we are allowed by Supply Estimates guidance to use “virement” to move spending between the two. Some Grant spending currently appears in Line A of the FCO accounts, as

we have only recently been able separately to identify these. This is the main cause of the expenditure mismatch with the Estimate. We have developed procedures to ensure that any element of Grant spending in Line A is in future shown in Line B of the Accounts This will significantly reduce the need for virement in the Accounts, and produce a result more closely matched with the Estimate.

PROSPERITY

Q89 Please supply figures for UK Government spending in support of the “prosperity agenda” in each year since 2010-11 broken down by department

We remain strongly committed to building UK prosperity through promoting opportunities abroad. Combined FCO Prosperity and UKTI expenditure increased every year between 2010/11 – 2014/15 resulting in an overall increase in £93m over the period. The 2014/15 reduction in FCO Prosperity spend was the result of the transfer of UKTI overseas operation costs from the FCO to the new UKTI Single Budget. Other Departmental spending to support the Prosperity agenda cannot accurately be disaggregated as it may be measured according to different metrics.

Spend, £000

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total Spend
FCO Prosperity	£342,829	£349,334	£356,828	£361,886	£256,644	£1,667,521
<i>£ Change</i>		£6,505	£7,494	£5,058	£105,242	
UKTI	£85,106	£81,743	£92,548	£157,199	£264,147	£680,743
<i>£ Change</i>		-£3,363	£10,805	£64,651	£106,948	
Total Change		+£3,412	+£18,299	+£69,709	+£1,706	+£93,126

DUTY OF CARE – LE STAFF MEMBER IMPRISONED IN IRAN

Q60 The Rt Hon. Ann Clwyd MP asked about the costs of duty of care in sensitive countries and raised a specific case of an LE staff member in Iran who was imprisoned for two years. The PUS said he would look into this case.

We take our duty of care to all our staff very seriously. I have now looked into the case referred to by Ms Clwyd during our evidence session. I understand that we last updated the FAC in June 2011 and I offer an oral update by one of my officials on this matter when the Committee returns after recess.

LANGUAGES

Q97 Please supply the latest figures for Target Level Attainment, broken down by FCO region.

The current target level attainment (TLA – staff in designated roles overseas who have passed their language exams) rate is 38.6% with a further 24.4% continuing their language training at Post. This marks a small improvement over 12 months as a result of ensuring students have the time to complete their studies and of increasing the number of exam rounds per year. As more students finish their studies in the Language Centre and move into roles overseas, we expect to continue to see an improvement in results. The table below shows the current TLA rate by region. It also shows the projected TLA rates if all staff in speaker slots who are currently undertaking training, complete it, and take their exam (final column). This would increase the overall TLA rate to 63%. This will happen slowly as these students are improving their language skills alongside their day jobs.

Geographic Region	Number of speaker slots (currently filled)	% TLA achieved	% currently in training at post	% projected TLA on completion of training/exam
Africa	55	26	23	49
Americas	77	49	21	70
Asia Pacific	71	49	26	75
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	43	23	49	72
Europe	169	32	31	63
Middle East North Africa	68	27	35	62
South Asia	14	7	36	43

Q98-99 Please describe the scheme under which the FCO enables Members of Parliament to learn a foreign language, indicating the cost to the FCO per hour of tuition and the cost charged to the user per hour of tuition (Q 98 - 99)

The contracts negotiated by the FCO with Language Services Direct and Institut Francais allow all Government Departments in Whitehall and the House of Commons to take advantage of competitive hourly rates for full or part-time language training in the UK. This training has been developed to meet the specific needs of civil servants and parliamentarians operating internationally. The hourly teaching rate at Language Services Direct is £34.96 for class 6 (the hardest e.g. Mandarin) languages and £27.47 for other languages (e.g. Spanish or Polish). In addition the FCO pays an annual management fee. Institut Francais, who teach French, charge £40 per hour inclusive of all teaching and administration costs.

OGDs apply through Civil Service Learning. They are invoiced directly by the provider and billed by Language Services Direct for teaching hours delivered plus an administrative charge of £9.00 per hour. This additional charge covers additional overheads (including the salary of the OGD account manager) paid in advance by the FCO. It has stayed the same since the contract was initiated in 2013. As the Institut Francais hourly rate is inclusive of all related costs, OGDs pay the standard £40 per hour.

We also offer places to OGD staff in existing FCO group classes, and can arrange access to the Language Centre for OGD staff wishing to study privately at no cost. Currently there are 33 OGD students participating in lunchtime classes and we have enabled access to the Language Centre for private study for over a 100 staff from ten departments across Whitehall. Three members of the House of Lords have access to the Language Centre. One FCO Minister and one member of the House of Commons are currently receiving language training through the FCO contract (in their offices rather than the Language Centre).

ASSETS

Q117 Please supply, in confidence if necessary, a copy of the FCO's current Global Asset Management Plan

I enclose the FCO's Global Asset Management Plan for 2015/16 (Annex B). This is a redacted version but still contains some commercially and financially sensitive information. I would be grateful that neither the entire document nor extracts are made public.