

## **CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

### **International development cooperation after Brexit**

The House of Lords EU External Affairs Sub-Committee, chaired by Baroness Verma, has re-launched its inquiry into the potential for UK co-operation with the EU on international development assistance after Brexit. The inquiry explores the areas in which the UK might want to continue to cooperate with the EU, how this could work in practice, and what impact Brexit would have on the delivery of UK and EU aid.

#### **Background**

EU development policy is a ‘shared parallel competence’, which means that EU Member States have their own development policies in addition to the EU’s common development policy. Of the £13.4 billion the UK spent on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) in 2016, approximately £1.5 billion was spent through the European Development Fund (EDF) and other EU development programmes. £8.5 billion was spent on bilateral aid programmes, and around £3 billion of UK ODA was delivered through other multilateral organisations, such as the United Nations and the Central Emergency Response Fund.<sup>1</sup>

In April 2017, the Prime Minister confirmed that the UK would continue to spend 0.7% of its Gross National Income (GNI) on ODA after Brexit.<sup>2</sup> In a letter to the Committee on 19 December 2017, Lord Bates confirmed that “the UK will honour commitments to the EU budget made during the period of our membership”, including commitments to the current and previous European Development Funds.

In its White Paper [The future relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union](#) of July 2018, the Government proposes a cooperative accord which would allow for “UK participation in specific EU programmes, instruments or bespoke projects, with appropriate influence and oversight.” Such participation would include “appropriate financial contributions” and the UK could participate in both EU development programmes and instruments, and in EU external spending programmes, including individual projects under such programmes.

#### **The inquiry**

The External Affairs Sub-Committee intends to contribute to public debate on possible UK cooperation with the EU on international development assistance after Brexit, and to scrutinise and influence the UK Government’s consideration of this issue.

Public hearings were held in November 2018 and written evidence was received. The inquiry was placed on hold in February 2019 but has just been re-launched.

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<sup>1</sup> Heather Evenett, *Brexit: Overseas Development Assistance*, House of Lords Library Briefing, 6 February 2018 <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/LLN-2018-0020>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/apr/21/uk-aid-pledge-remains-and-will-remain-says-theresa-may>

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The inquiry will – among others – hear oral evidence from the Department for International Development, development experts and practitioners, NGOs and aid recipient countries.

The Sub-Committee will publish a report, with recommendations, at the end of the inquiry. The report will receive a response from the Government and will be debated in the House.

The Sub-Committee seeks written evidence on the questions below from anyone with a relevant interest. We would like to hear from as wide a range of individuals and organisations as possible. Diversity comes in many forms and hearing a range of different perspectives means that Committees are better informed and can scrutinise public policy and legislation more effectively. We encourage anyone with experience or expertise to share their views with the Committee, with the full knowledge that their views have value and are welcome.

You need not address all questions in your response, and respondents from a particular area or sector are invited to focus on the questions most pertinent to them. **Submissions are sought by 30 August 2019 23:59.**

## Questions

Please answer any or all of the following questions.

1. Why should the UK and the EU cooperate after Brexit? In which thematic and/or geographic areas does the EU currently add value to UK development policy? What are the advantages and disadvantages to the UK participating in EU development programmes? What does the UK bring to EU development programmes and how significant would its absence be to the design and delivery of EU aid?

2. In its White Paper of July 2018, [The future relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union](#), the UK Government set out its intention to continue to collaborate closely with the EU on three key development areas: peace & security, humanitarian aid and migration. In your view, in which thematic or geographic areas should the UK seek to cooperate with the EU after Brexit? Please explain your reasons.

3. How could the UK and the EU cooperate after Brexit and what could this look like in practice? Would it be desirable for the UK to participate within existing frameworks for third-country participation? What alternative frameworks could be devised? How might these be structured and what level of influence might they give the UK over EU development policy?

4. What is the likely impact of the EU's proposed new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) on future UK participation in or cooperation with EU development instruments? Could it make UK participation on a case-by-case basis easier or more challenging?

5. What impact do you expect Brexit to have on UK NGOs and their eligibility for EU development funding? What are their main concerns?

6. What role could the private sector play in post-Brexit development cooperation and how would this differ from its current contributions?

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7. What impact do you anticipate the proposed restructuring of EU development instruments—once in force—to have on recipient countries?

8. Would it be desirable for the UK to contribute to EU development assistance financially, with staff, or both? Would it be in the UK's interest—if possible—to continue seconding national experts on development to EU institutions? What impact would Brexit have on resource needs in DFID, the FCO, and other departments, both financially and in terms of staff?

### **ANNEX I: Guidance for Submissions**

Written evidence should be submitted online, as a Word document, using the written submission form available at [www.parliament.uk/hlinquiry-international-development-cooperation-submission-form](http://www.parliament.uk/hlinquiry-international-development-cooperation-submission-form). This page also provides guidance on submitting evidence.

If you have difficulty submitting evidence online, please contact the Committee staff by email at [martinkohlmorgenj@parliament.uk](mailto:martinkohlmorgenj@parliament.uk) or by telephoning 020 7219 6099. **The deadline for written evidence is 30 August 2019.**

Short submissions are preferred. A submission longer than six pages should include a one page summary. Paragraphs should be numbered. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Evidence which is accepted by the Committee may be published online at any stage; when it is so published it becomes subject to parliamentary copyright and is protected by parliamentary privilege. Please note that because of Parliamentary recess, the earliest that evidence can be accepted and published will be mid-September. Submissions which have been previously published will not be accepted as evidence.

Once you have received acknowledgement that the evidence has been accepted you will receive a further email, and at this point you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself. In doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee, and you should be aware that your publication or re-publication of your evidence may not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Personal contact details will be removed from evidence before publication, but will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, for instance to seek additional information.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast online; transcripts are also taken and published online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the clerk of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

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**This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy directly.**

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/eu-external-affairs-subcommittee/inquiries/parliament-2017/international-development-cooperation-after-brexit/>

You can also follow the inquiry on Twitter: [@LordsEUCom](https://twitter.com/LordsEUCom)