# International Development Sector Transparency Panel

**DFID, London, 15 May 2013**

**Paper 2: DFID Aid Transparency – Progress Update**

This paper provides a brief background to DFIDs approach to aid transparency and summarises the key things we have delivered since the launch of our Aid Transparency Guarantee in 2010.

The Panel is invited to:

* Note and comment on overall progress

## Background

Transparency is at the heart of the UK government’s agenda. Opening up data helps to strengthen public accountability; improve public services and stimulate economic growth. The core policy and transparency requirements for all government departments are set out in the [Open Data White Paper](file:///C:\Users\j-adams\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\IWYDGT86\Open_data_White_Paper%20June%202012.pdf) 2012 and the [Prime Minister’s letter](http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/letter-to-government-departments-on-opening-up-data/) 2010.

The UK is also helping lead a global movement towards transparency by currently co-chairing the Open Government Partnership. The theme of our tenure is ‘Transparency drives Prosperity’ – demonstrating the value of open governance to economic growth, inclusive development and improved citizen engagement and empowerment.

DFID has ambitious plans to increase the transparency of development co-operation, in line with the government’s wider transparency agenda. Our commitments are set out in three key documents:

1. **Aid transparency guarantee (June 2010)** – sets out our ambition to publish detailed information about all new DFID projects in a common standard, and to push for full transparency across the international aid system.
2. **Open data strategy (June 2012)** – sets out how DFID will drive accountability and improve aid impact through transparency, supported by a schedule of new data release commitments.
3. **Aid transparency challenge** **(Dec 2012)**– extends the aid transparency guarantee to our implementing partners, challenging us and them to make DFID aid spending traceable right through the system from taxpayer to beneficiary; supports the development of tools to make open aid information easier to use.

## What we’ve delivered

The table below presents a summary of the key things we’ve delivered since 2010.

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| Key | Commitment | Progress |
| ATG | Publish detailed information about all new DFID projects | Delivered. Detailed information on all aid projects with over £500 spend published on DFID Project Database and available from IATI Registry. Project Database redeveloped to make information clearer and easier to understand. |
| ATG | Push for full transparency across the international system | Delivered. Led and hosted IATI 2009-2013. First organisation to publish to the IATI standard. Over 130 organisations internationally now publishing data to this standard. Commitment to spend 5% of budget support to improve accountability and transparency in partner countries. |
| ODS | Redevelop and re-launch aid information platform (AIP) | Delivered alpha in November 2012; beta planned for June 2013. Improved access to our aid data, supporting future traceability of aid delivery from DFID right through to the end beneficiary. |
| ODS | Provide more detailed location information for projects | Delivered pilot – geocoding published for all Bangladesh projects in May 2013. Method will be applied to all new projects from April 2014. |
| ODS | Establish a method for linking DFID aid data with partner country budget data | Ongoing: initial mapping – 75% matched, 25% requires further work. |
| ODS | Establish a Sector Transparency Panel to advise and challenge on UK aid transparency | Delivered |
| ODS | Pilot beneficiary feedback approaches | Ongoing: implementing 4 pilots in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Mozambique and the Global Poverty Action Fund programme. Strong research and impact evaluation element to capture learning. |
| ODS | Publish results for DFID aid projects | Delivered. 25 country level results published.  Ongoing: capture of project-level results for publication to IATI. |
| ODS | Improve quality of DFID published data | Delivered. New business case and annual review templates introduced; compliance tools introduced to better identify gaps in data. |
| ATC | Make DFID aid spending traceable from taxpayer to beneficiary | Project plan to be developed. Commitment to implement by 2015. |
| ATC | Establish fund to stimulate development of tools to make better use of open aid information | Project plan to be developed. |

Key: ATG – Aid transparency guarantee; ODS – Open data strategy; ATC – Aid transparency challenge