

Funding for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) reduction

“The information I am looking for relates to funding for female genital mutilation (FGM) reduction. I am particularly interested in how much money has been disbursed to fund work in the UK (as opposed to abroad).

I am aware of the headline figure of £35 million promised earlier in 2013 but press reports were unclear on the specifics of the funding. Is the £35 million all from the UK’s international aid budget or is some of it from other sources please? Can you tell me how much of it has been allocated to fund actual FGM reduction work in the UK? (as opposed to work abroad that may have some effect on future immigrants to the UK). The DFID fund for FGM, which closed on the 28th October 2011, is the only government funding source that I have been able to find that is specifically for the UK. My MP has told me of a figure of £60,000, is that the amount that was disbursed from that fund or was that the amount ‘available’ to bids? If it was the amount available, can you please tell me how much was disbursed? Was the £60,000 part of the £35 million or was it from another source, if so where please?

My understanding is that all the money made available by the UK Government was specifically for ‘abandonment of FGM’ and not for other forms of FGM reduction working such as Safeguarding. Is this correct please?”

DFID’s programme ‘Towards Ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in Africa and Beyond’ is a comprehensive programme, with a budget of up to £35 million over 5 years, funded by the UK’s international development budget. As it is an international development programme it will not directly support the reduction of FGM in the UK.

However, the programme does include a component which will disburse up to £1 million to diaspora communities in the UK to support efforts to end the practice in their countries of origin.

DFID did not have a fund for FGM in 2011. The £60,000 you refer to was a Home Office Fund and is not part of the £35 million announced by DFID in 2013. DFID does not hold information relating to the Home Office Fund.

The Department of Education leads on safeguarding in the UK. DFID works in close collaboration with other government departments to ensure a comprehensive approach to FGM abandonment both in the UK and overseas.