



UK Delegation to the OECD

Welcome

The UK Delegation to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (UKDel OECD) pursues and supports UK objectives at the [OECD](#) and its sister organisations - the International Energy Agency ([IEA](#)), the Nuclear Energy Agency ([NEA](#)) and the International Transport Forum ([ITF](#)).

This note provides a brief overview of what the OECD is, and how it works, as well as some practical information for visitors. If you have any questions, please contact us at: fennel.waters@fco.gov.uk or +33 1 44 51 31 00.

What is the OECD?

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), established in 1961, promotes policies aimed at improving the economic and social well-being of people around the world. Today, the OECD has 34 members, but also works extensively with non-member countries and other international fora (including the G7, G20, WTO, IMF, World Bank and UN).

The UK contributes about £15 million per annum to core OECD running costs. The Organisation frequently accepts additional voluntary contributions for projects of interest to a single country, or smaller group of countries.

How does the OECD support UK objectives?

With more than 260 committees and working groups, serviced by a 3000-strong Secretariat, the Organisation:

- (1) provides international comparisons of policy initiatives and outcomes, with a view to promoting identifying and best practice.
- (2) establishes principles, standards and guidelines, including through formal OECD Recommendations, which then provide a basis for OECD peer reviews and follow-up work.
- (3) advises member and non-member countries on public policy issues, and supports efforts to build capacity.
- (4) provides regular public commentary on policy issues.

Whitehall officials represent the UK in “substantive committees” and working parties. UKDel OECD represents the UK in OECD Council and various “standing committees” that direct the work of the Organisation and seek to ensure whole-of-governance coherence across different areas of work.

Accessing OECD documents

The OECD's Online Information Service ([OLIS](#)) is an indispensable tool not only for anyone attending meetings as a delegate, but also for those across government whose work contributes to, or could profit from, engagement with the OECD.

Through a single portal, government officials can access past and current meeting documents, reports, books, recommendations, statistics and other work for free. It is therefore not only an invaluable resource for research, but a one-stop-shop for those preparing to attend committees.

UKDel strongly recommends that all officials with any contact with the OECD, either actively through meetings or contributions to the Organisation's activity, or passively through consulting its work, register to use OLIS. The [OLIS page on the OECD's website](#) includes a link to help you sign up. Your subscription should be processed automatically and you will receive a login name and password.

Attending meetings

To attend an OECD meeting, you must register using the OECD's Event Management System ([EMS](#)) (accessible both through OLIS and from www.oecd.int). EMS is also a useful tool for finding out who else is participating in meetings, as well as room numbers and times. It allows you to check who is registered for past and upcoming meetings, and to take a look ahead at meetings and conferences planned for the future.

If this is your first time registering, please contact UKDel and we will change your permissions so that you can register yourself and other delegates to OECD meetings. Once logged-in, select the event which you wish to attend, click on the "register/rank delegates" tab (two to the right of "summary"), "add delegates", and then follow the instructions from there. There is also short guidance available for both OLIS and EMS and we can send electronic copies on request.

OECD website

The [public OECD website](#) (no OLIS/EMS account needed) offers additional information on OECD work and practical information on location, transport and hotels nearby - see [Conference Centre - OECD](#) where you can also see details of discounts offered to those attending OECD meetings.

The role of UKDel and how we fulfil it....

UKDel's role is to help the UK get the best possible value out of our £15m per annum contributions to the OECD and IEA, and to advance the Government's Prosperity agenda.

Our Business Plan

Our Delegation business plan sets out our core objectives, as agreed with the FCO. It is helpful if you can keep us updated on Committee discussions and internal submissions, particularly on those that touch on these areas.

In addition, we can support UK delegates by:

- ✓ Helping to arrange ministerial visits
- ✓ Advise on who officials should see during visits to the OECD, including provision of contact details as necessary
- ✓ Raise matters of political importance to the UK at the OECD Council or its subsidiary bodies as appropriate
- ✓ Attend informal meetings of Permanent Delegations in Paris where technical business is to be discussed, such as the Counsellors' meetings that often precede committee meetings
- ✓ Lobby the Secretariat and/or other Permanent Delegations and use our local contacts and networks to help secure UK objectives
- ✓ Be a source of information to UK government departments of key OECD processes, institutional issues and developments of which they need to be aware
- ✓ Provide a meeting room for max 8-10 people, and book certain OECD rooms
- ✓ Offer general advice and guidance on OECD and IEA recruitment

In view of UKDEL's limited resources, we will not normally be in a position to:

- ❖ Set up programmes, book hotels or arrange transport for delegates attending Committee meetings, (though we can give advice on who to see)
- ❖ Attend committee meetings with or on behalf of Whitehall customers, unless we have clear instructions and our own objectives/priorities allow us to be present
- ❖ Register delegates to OECD meetings, except in the case of first-time visitors