SPECIFIC VACANCY INFORMATION

**Vacancies:** Members for DFID’s Independent Science Advisory Group (SAG)

**Research themes:** Science and Research for International Development

**Location:** Whitehall, London and Abercrombie House, East Kilbride

**Terms and Conditions**

➢ **Salary**

This is an independent expert science¹ and research advisory post only (not a civil service post). SAG members generously provide their time and expertise in-kind and no honorarium is provided. DFID will reimburse travel and incidental expense in accordance with DFID’s travel policy.

➢ **Term**

SAG members serve for 3 consecutive years, with a maximum of two terms. SAG members will not be able to bid into DFID research funds for the duration of their tenure.

**Application Details**

DFID is recruiting members for SAG across all science and research priority areas (see table 1). In addition, DFID is also recruiting for new SAG Chair.

**Application Process**

1. DFID is seeking expressions of interest from candidates in the form of:
   
a. **A Covering Letter (maximum 4 sides).**
      
i. Cover letter should detail which SAG role you are applying for.
      
ii. If you are applying to the SAG Chair role, you must meet criteria for expertise in table 1 in your area and meet Chair’s essential requirements (detailed below).

b. **A detailed CV** – providing evidence of the following competencies:
   
i. **All Essential Skills** as detailed in the Job Description (below);
   
ii. **Details of experience and expertise in international development** and delivery research in developing country context – all candidates must show evidence of multi-disciplinary and strategic thinking;
   
iii. **Experience and expertise** in the relevant DFID science and research priority area (Table 1 detailed below). Please detail your skills, expertise and experience against the SAG requirements.

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¹ Science includes all physical/natural and social sciences.
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<tr>
<th>DFID Science and Research Priority Area</th>
<th>SAG Expertise and Experience Required</th>
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| Health                                 | • Infectious Disease  
• Global Health  
• Health Systems  
• Social Determinants of Health  
• Health innovations and technology relevant for development |
| Agriculture                             | • Sustainable Agricultural  
• Food Systems and Food/Nutrition Security  
• Resilience to climate change  
• Technologies to increase productivity  
• Agricultural innovations and technology relevant for development |
| Climate, Water, Energy                  | • Climate and Water  
• Clean Energy and Infrastructure  
• Biodiversity / ecosystems /environment (more brown than green)  
• Resilience to natural hazards and disasters (impact of climate science)  
• Low-carbon, water and energy innovations and technology relevant for development |
| Growth                                  | • Economic Development  
• Job creation in LICs  
• Education and skills development  
• Innovations and technology relevant for development |
| Humanitarian                            | • Humanitarian Innovation  
• Protracted Crises (incl. forced displacement)  
• Disaster resilience (natural hazards and man-made)  
• Rapid response to crises (multi-sectoral)  
• Humanitarian innovations and technology relevant for development |
| Education                               | • Education Systems (primary, secondary and tertiary)  
• Skills development  
• Education innovations and technology relevant for development |
| Governance, Conflict and Social Development | • Drivers of Conflict  
• Strengthening systems on taxation, accountability, security and justice  
• Extremism, corruption, irregular migration  
• Violence against women  
• Social and governance innovations and technology relevant for development |
| Data for Development                     | Big Data  
• Big data research and evidence priorities to deliver the UN's Global Goals  
• Developing and applying innovative digital approaches to new and existing data sources |
2. The names and contact details of three referees should also be attached to your CV and application. We will not approach referees without your permission.

3. Please return full applications to SAGRotation2019@dfid.gov.uk

- **CLOSING DATE**: 30th June 2019, 1700 (UK time)
  
  - Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
  
  - Interviews will be held in **July 2019**. Only candidates successful for interview stage will be contacted by DFID. **DFID reserves all options on the appointment of SAG members.**
Background

DFID has an independent Science Advisory Group (SAG), whose primary aim is to provide independent scientific and research advice to the Department.

The provision of independent scientific advice by the SAG will help to support the DFID Chief Scientific Adviser (who is also the Director of the Research and Evidence Division), the DFID Chief Economist and DFID’s Director General for Policy, Research and Humanitarian to assure the quality and appropriateness of DFID’s science and research portfolio in meeting the departments objectives.

The current SAG membership consists of 11 senior, internationally-respected scientists and academics. The Group is currently chaired by Professor Sir Ian Diamond, previously the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen.

The full list of existing members is found below (Table 2).

The Science Advisory Group’s objectives are to:

i. Provide strategic advice on DFID’s science and research priorities and activities; and any links the wider UK and international science and research base;

ii. Discuss and advise on broader development issues, priorities and policies, from a science and research perspective;

iii. Help ensure DFID policies are informed by the best available scientific evidence;

iv. Comment on the effectiveness and where appropriate the value for money of DFID research programmes and projects;

v. Provide advice on the balance, relevance and adequacy of any research activities supporting Departmental objectives; and to provide advice on areas that deserve more/less emphasis, including any evidence gaps;

vi. Provide advice on the development and delivery of DFID’s forward science and research portfolio and how this supports/underpins DFID’s strategic thinking;

vii. Participate in horizon-scanning and long-range scenario planning exercises to help identify emerging global challenges and opportunities for international development efforts and for DFID objectives;

viii. If required by the Department, provide scientific support and advice into DFID’s science in international emergencies and disasters efforts;

ix. When required, provide advice and connections to specialist expertise available in the wider UK/International science and research community relevant to DFID’s priorities and needs;

x. Provide advice on DFID’s communication of science and research findings and outputs.
Role Description

DFID’s values are Confidence, Courage and Collaboration. DFID is committed to ensuring SAG members maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. As such, all successful SAG members must abide by the ethical standards detailed in the *Nolan Principles of Public Life* - see [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life).

1. SAG Membership – Core Duties and Requirements

i. Attend 3 full day meetings per year in person at DFID HQ (London or East Kilbride, Scotland). SAG members will also participate in relevant technical meetings and sub-groups at DFID outside of the 3 full day meetings.

ii. Provide independent, expert scientific advice both within your area of expertise, and across DFID’s science and research portfolio. This will include advice on emerging policy and strategy work within DFID and quality assurance of that work.

iii. Provide impartial expert advice on key issues relevant to your specialisms. This includes ensuring DFID is made aware of current and emerging international evidence-bases that are relevant to DFID’s objectives.

iv. Synthesise evidence and present it (in both verbal and written form) to DFID officials during SAG meetings or other ‘deep-dive’ discussions of key issues.

v. Engage across sectoral boundaries and collaborate work with other SAG members to ensure DFID has access to robust and impartial multidisciplinary scientific advice for its decision-making.

vi. Ensure that DFID has access to the best international scientists, engineers and researchers by sharing professional networks.

vii. Build and maintain relationships to command the confidence of a range of DFID relevant stakeholders including the UK Parliament, Government departments, aid beneficiaries, international development practitioners, and the wider science and research community.

viii. Remain independent, objective and impartial and uphold the *Nolan Principles of Public Life*.

ix. Ensure an up-to-date register of conflicts of interest is maintained and any potential conflicts flagged to DFID in a timely way.
SAG Members - Essential Skills and Experience

1. Demonstrable understanding of the impact of science, research and technology on delivering the UK’s international development objectives and the UN Sustainable Development Goals; and strong understanding of DFID’s objectives and priorities;

2. Strong understanding and/or experience of development challenges faced by the Global South;

3. Evidence of senior science and/or engineering leadership in academia, industry and/or philanthropic organisations;

4. National and/or international level experience of research management;

5. Strong understanding and experience (+5 years) of delivering international development research in-country, including in conflict/fragile states.

6. Strong networks at national and international levels;

7. Proven ability to work across sectors and specialisms to ensure deliver of robust science for decision-makers;

8. Evidence of strategic insights to build credibility and confidence with a range of stakeholders (Government, industry, and/or wider academic and research community);

9. Strong communication skills; and track record of research and peer-reviewed publications, preferably with a focus on developing countries.

10. Evidence of strong track record of open and collaborative interdisciplinary working, including ability to work with policy officials within the Civil Service.

Desirable Skills and Experience

1. Experience of providing impartial expert advice to senior Government decision-makers at ministerial, senior civil service and parliamentary levels.

2. Experience of the international research funding environment and provisions for research funding in developing countries.

3. An ability to communicate with and influence both policy-makers and the research community in both the UK and in developing countries.

4. Good understanding of HMG Science Network, including the roles and functions of:
   i. The Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA) and Government Office for Science;
   ii. The departmental CSAs;
   iii. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI);
   iv. UK’s learned academies;
   v. Wider UK and international science and research base (universities, research institutions, relevant private sector).
SAG Chair - Essential Skills and Experience

In addition to the above, the SAG Chair will need to demonstrate the following:

1. Past and current senior leadership and strategic roles;
2. Experience of senior level research management;
3. Longstanding expertise and understanding of science and research for international development;
4. Experience of Chairing senior multi-disciplinary committees and panels;
5. Experience of advising at the most senior levels the UK Government and/or international development donors;
6. Experience of giving evidence to House of Lords and House of Commons Parliamentary inquires;
7. Experience of cross-Governmental working, for example with Government Office for Science, the GCSA or CSA network;
8. Experience of building scientific and research coherence and collaboration at national and international levels.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Table 2 - Current DFID SAG Members 2019 Members</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof Sir Ian Diamond (Chair)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ex - Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/people/ian-diamond">https://www.gov.uk/government/people/ian-diamond</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof John Briggs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Research Fellow (School of Geographical and Earth Sciences)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glasgow University</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.qla.ac.uk/stafflist/?action=person&amp;id=4cdceee2819e203c98f3">http://www.qla.ac.uk/stafflist/?action=person&amp;id=4cdceee2819e203c98f3</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof Adrian Wood</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Emeritus of International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.geh.ac.uk/people/adrian-wood">https://www.geh.ac.uk/people/adrian-wood</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof Bob Moon</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor of Education Teaching Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Founding Director of the Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSSA) Programme</td>
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<td>Open University.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.open.edu/openlearn/profiles/rem3">http://www.open.edu/openlearn/profiles/rem3</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof Nigel Arnell</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor of Climate System Science (Walker Institute)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Reading</td>
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<td><a href="https://research.reading.ac.uk/meteorology/people/nigel-arnell/">https://research.reading.ac.uk/meteorology/people/nigel-arnell/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof AbuBakr Bahaj</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of the Energy &amp; Climate Change Division (ECCD) and Professor of Sustainable Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Southampton</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.southampton.ac.uk/engineering/about/staff/bahaj.page">http://www.southampton.ac.uk/engineering/about/staff/bahaj.page</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof Douglas Gollin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor of Development Economics, University of Oxford</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.qeh.ac.uk/people/douglas-gollin">http://www.qeh.ac.uk/people/douglas-gollin</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof Nyovani J Madise</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Research and Development Policy and Head of Malawi Office African Institute for Development Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof Dame Anne Mills</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Director &amp; Provost and Professor of Health Economics and Policy, LSHTM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof Pete Smith</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair in Plant &amp; Soil Science, Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ibes/profiles/pete.smith">http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ibes/profiles/pete.smith</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prof Jonathan Weber</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferiss Professor of Communicable Diseases and GU Medicine and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/j.weber">https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/j.weber</a></td>
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INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Selection Process

Expert nominations for independent Science Advisory Group (SAG) membership will be sought via an open international advertisement for experts. Expert nominations for identified priority research areas will also be sought from the international learned academies, and from professional institutions and societies, using the criteria below.

All nominated experts will be expected to complete and submit a full application.

Selection Criteria:

- Independently minded and intellectually neutral
- Expertise, skills and experience
- Seniority and international reputation
- Familiarity with government processes and key DFID polices
- Promotion of fair and independent process

Only successful short-listed candidates will be contacted.

We expect to applicants to be shortlisted and interviewed in June 2019. Only successful candidates for interview will be contacted. Due to high volume of applicants DFID SAG attracts, DFID will not be able to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

The interview panel will include (not limited to) the DFID SAG Chair and the DFID Chief Scientific Adviser. Interviews will be held at DFID’s HQ at 22 Whitehall, London.

Declaration of Interest

The successful candidate must complete a declaration of interest form outlining all relevant business the candidate has undertaken with DFID.

Please note that SAG members will not be able to bid for DFID research funding for the duration of their SAG tenure.

SAG Membership Rotation

Membership rotation is an important mechanism to ensure that the SAG remains aligned with DFID’s needs, and continues to provide the most relevant up-to-date scientific and research advice to DFID.

The criteria for making decisions on the composition of SAG membership and the timing of rotation include:

- Changing priorities for science and research advice by DFID.
- Members have served for 3 consecutive years.
- Members are no longer able to continue with SAG commitments.
- Changing priorities in expertise needed from members.

2 Self-aware, curious, independent, and demonstrates an interest in areas wider than their individual disciplinary expertise
- Overlapping areas of disciplinary expertise across members.
- Group balance, including gender, race, geography and discipline.

**Equal opportunities**

DFID is an equal opportunities employer. Applications are welcomed from all parts of the community. We actively encourage applications from researchers based in the Global South and scientific leaders working in developing countries. We also actively encourage interest from women, ethnic minority groups those with a disability and people from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities. Final selection is on merit.

**Candidate Expenses for Travel to Interview**

Reasonable travel expenses (economy class travel only) will be reimbursed for interview candidates only. A travel and subsistence form will be made available for interview candidates. Only actual cost of economy fares and any incidental travelling expenses may be claimed.

**Your information**

By submitting an application, you are consenting to DFID using and storing your data.

All candidates have the right to have their data deleted at any point and this can be done by emailing SAGRotation2019@dfid.gov.uk

Your data will be handled in compliance with EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the UK Data Protection Act 2018.

Personal information supplied will only be used for purposes of interview.

DFID is the Data Controller and is registered with the Information Commissioner for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018.
What We Do – Department for International Development (DFID)

The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the UK’s work to end extreme poverty, deliver the Global Goals, and tackle global challenges in line with the government’s UK Aid Strategy. Our Aid budget is spent on tackling the great global challenges, from the root causes of mass migration and disease, to the threat of terrorism and global climate change – all of which directly threaten British interests. The UK Government through DFID is are ending the need for aid by building peaceful and stable societies, creating jobs and strong economies, fighting corruption, unlocking the potential of girls and women, tackling climate change and helping to save lives when humanitarian emergencies hit. This effort is both the right thing to do and firmly in Britain’s national interest.

DFID works in partnership across Whitehall and with governments, civil society, the private sector and multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, the World Health Organisation, United Nations agencies, and the European Commission.

We are responsible for:

1. Honouring the UK’s international commitments and taking action to achieve the United Nations’ Global Goals;
2. Making British aid more effective by improving transparency, openness and value for money;
3. Targeting British international development policy on economic growth and wealth creation;
4. Improving the coherence and performance of British international development policy in fragile and conflict-affected countries;
5. Improving the lives of girls and women through better education and a greater choice on family planning;
6. Preventing violence against girls and women in the developing world;
7. Helping to prevent climate change and encouraging adaptation and low-carbon growth in developing countries.

DFID Policies:

1. Economic growth in developing countries;
2. Women and girls in developing countries;
3. Humanitarian emergencies;
4. Peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa.

More details on DFID’s policies can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/policies?organisations%5B%5D=department-for-international-development

UKAid Strategy

The UKAid Strategy was announced in November 2015, by the DFID Secretary of State and the Chancellor. It reaffirmed the UK’s commitment to spending 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on international development. The strategy sets out how the government will make global efforts to defeat poverty, tackle instability and create prosperity in developing countries, while still acting to support the UK’s national interest.
The UKAid strategy sets out 4 strategic objectives:

1. **Strengthening global peace, security and governance**: the government will invest more to tackle the causes of instability, insecurity and conflict, and to tackle crime and corruption. This is fundamental to poverty reduction overseas, and will also strengthen our own national security at home.

2. **Strengthening resilience and response to crisis**: this includes more support for ongoing crisis including that in Syria and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, more science and technology spend on global public health risks such as antimicrobial resistance, and support for efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

3. **Promoting global prosperity**: The Government will use Official Development Assistance (ODA) to promote economic development and prosperity in the developing world. This will contribute to the reduction of poverty and strengthen UK trade and investment opportunities around the world.

4. **Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world’s most vulnerable**: The Government will strive to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030 and support the world’s poorest people to ensure that every person has access to basic needs, including prioritising the rights of girls and women. This will build security, stability and opportunity that will benefit us all.

The full UKAid Strategy document can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-aid-tackling-global-challenges-in-the-national-interest

**DFID Priorities**

UKAID Strategy outlines DFID core strategic priorities. DFID’s Single Departmental Plan details further information.

**Where we work**

DFID central offices are in London and East Kilbride Scotland. We work directly in 28 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. These countries are:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Burma
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- India
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Occupied Palestinian Territories
- Pakistan
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- South Sudan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
DFID also has 3 regional programmes in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, and development relationships with 3 aid dependent Overseas Territories – St Helena, the Pitcairn Islands and Montserrat. DFID works flexibly as and where necessary, including with the international community, to provide humanitarian assistance where it is needed.

**International Development Acts**

Two acts of parliament have helped to put development higher on the national agenda. The International Development Act 2002 clarified the purpose of aid spending as poverty reduction while the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006 defined DFID’s annual reporting to Parliament through its Annual Report.

For more information about DFID’s work please see: [https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development)

**DFID’s Research and Evidence Division (RED)**

Science, Research, Technology and Innovation are increasingly helping to address core development challenges and to improve the impact of UKAID in the poorest countries. Development research also strengthens the evidence base of what interventions work and in which contexts. Both are core to helping UKAID save lives in the poorest countries, to strengthen resilience to crises, improve educational outcomes, and generate innovation. Science and research for development create global public goods to deliver sustainable global development, whilst contributing to the stability, security and prosperity of the UK.

During the last Parliament, DFID committed to invest 3% of its budget in research. RED invests in operationally relevant high-quality evidence and data to enable DFID to systematically demonstrate evidence of our impact on global poverty reduction. RED leads DFID’s work to commission research on key questions for development; to support robust evaluation of DFID’s programmes; to oversee high quality DFID statistics; and to support efforts to strengthen knowledge systems in developing countries. It also works to enhance the professional capability of DFID’s cadres; and engages actively with policy makers and country offices.

**DFID research themes are:**

1. Agriculture Research
2. Education Research
3. Health Research
4. Economic Growth Research
5. Governance, Conflict and Social Development Research
6. Climate, Water and Energy Research
7. Humanitarian Disasters and Emergencies Research
8. Data for Development

**How DFID undertakes Research**

Both rich and poor Governments want to know what they are getting for their aid money, so that they can focus their efforts on what works and stop doing what doesn’t. DFID is committed to using research and evidence to drive value for money and get the best results from development programmes; to provide better evidence for decision makers and practitioners; and to influence other donors to do the same.
These are some of the ways that we are doing this:

1. **We commission research on key questions in development** and have three broad aims:
   - To support the development of new technologies which would reduce poverty or the effects of poverty, such as new drugs, vaccines, or drought-tolerant crops;
   - To find better and more cost-effective ways of delivering aid and development assistance to those who need it;
   - To increase understanding of key development questions to support best policy choices.

2. **We synthesise evidence.** Currently much of the evidence that the development community needs is widely scattered, not systematically brought together, and of variable quality. As part of its commitment to making research more accessible, DFID synthesises evidence from all sources, assesses its quality and communicates the findings. Some of the ways we are doing this are through our systematic review programme and evidence papers. We also synthesise key findings from DFID funded research, such as the report on governance.

3. **We support openness and transparency.** Research programmes commissioned directly by DFID are generally awarded through open competition and go through an expert peer review process. This is usually a two-stage process. In the first stage, short expressions of interest are received and reviewed by a group of internal reviewers, with a range of relevant expertise. Those shortlisted at this stage are then invited to submit full proposals. Full proposals are evaluated by a panel of reviewers that includes at least one independent external reviewer. Evaluation criteria are published at the time of calls for proposals. DFID is also committed to making our research findings freely available to all those who can use them around the world. Detailed information about DFID funded research programmes is already available on Research4Development, and we have in place an open access policy to increase visibility and remove price barriers to the full range of outputs from our research.

4. **We are active in the international arena of funders of development research,** aiming to share strategic thinking, lessons, peer reviewing and funding priorities, to identify opportunities to collaborate and avoid any duplication of effort. DFID is a world leader in science and research for development with extensive expertise and experience in poor countries. Following the 2015 Autumn Statement, other Government Departments also became responsible for administrating ODA-funding for science for development. RED works actively across other Government Departments to ensure a cohesive and coordinated approach is taken to prioritising ODA-funded science and research for international development and helping to ensure the UK maximises its development impact in the poorest countries.

**DFID’s Research Review**

DFID’s 2016 Research Review details DFID’s future research priorities and areas of focus for the period 2016-2020. The last SAG provided expert advice and peer-review of both this process and the final Review document. The Research Review considers and steers the level of investment necessary to maximise the impact of development research and sets priorities for DFID’s research investments during the next 4 years.

The 2016 Research Review can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-research-review](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-research-review)