

Central Government Direct and Indirect Spend with Small and Medium sized Enterprises 2020/21

The government wants small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs¹) to benefit from central government procurement spend, either directly or indirectly via the supply chain.

Reports on this aspiration are represented as the sum of two figures: direct spend and indirect spend, as the figures are calculated using different methodologies. Their addition provides the figure against which the overall aspiration is measured.

Methodology:

These figures on SME spend are management information published in the interests of transparency. The data sources for direct and indirect spend are described in more detail below. Given the differences in methodology between direct and indirect spend and changes in methodology between years, caution should be exercised when making comparisons over time.

Methodology: Direct Spend

To calculate direct spend, we use Dun and Bradstreet, a leading provider of business information, to classify all government suppliers as either SMEs or non-SMEs in line with the EC definition. We then use departments' accounting systems to calculate how much money has been directly spent with those SMEs. Departments are asked to include the core department and its Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs). Returns are reviewed and signed off by Commercial Directors.

Methodology: Indirect Spend

Indirect spend with SMEs via the supply chain was collected through a survey issued by departments to their suppliers. For each department, we calculated the percentage of their procurement spend with large suppliers which had been captured by supplier responses. For those departments with over 70% of spend captured (i.e. with high levels of confidence in the supply-chain data) an extrapolation has been applied over the remaining spend to obtain a more complete picture. This calculation can be found in the .csv file Annex.

¹ We use the EC definition of an SME: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/>

Breakdown of departmental SME spend data (£m) 2020/21

The table below shows the departmental breakdown of spend with small and medium sized businesses for financial year 2020/21 against financial year 2019/20 figures.

Department	Financial Year 2019/20						Financial Year 2020/21					
	Total Procurement Spend (£m)	Direct Spend with SMEs (£m)	Direct Spend with SMEs as %	Indirect Spend with SMEs (£m)	Indirect Spend with SMEs as %	Total Spend with SMEs as %	Total Procurement Spend (£m)	Direct Spend with SMEs (£m)	Direct Spend with SMEs as %	Indirect Spend with SMEs (£m)	Indirect Spend with SMEs as %	Total Spend with SMEs as %
BEIS	£1,435	£410	28.6%	£53	3.7%	32.3%	£3,153	£486	15.4%	£78	2.5%	17.9%
CO	£457	£42	9.3%	£29	6.3%	15.6%	£1,093	£184	16.9%	£52	4.8%	21.6%
DCMS	£608	£268	44.1%	£19	3.1%	47.2%	£614	£276	45.0%	£23	3.7%	48.7%
DEFRA	£1,265	£232	18.3%	£103	8.1%	26.5%	£1,714	£254	14.8%	£108	6.3%	21.1%
DFE	£550	£200	36.3%	£45	8.1%	44.5%	£769	£223	29.0%	£56	7.3%	36.2%
DFID (1)	£1,249	£194	15.5%	£309	24.7%	40.2%						
DFT	£14,327	£1,408	9.8%	£3,496	24.4%	34.2%	£15,193	£1,876	12.3%	£3,299	21.7%	34.1%
DHSC	£3,165	£586	18.5%	£57	1.8%	20.3%	£13,375	£3,114	23.3%	£250	1.9%	25.1%
DIT	£150	£54	36.0%	£8	5.4%	41.4%	£167	£53	31.9%	£6	3.7%	35.6%
DLUHC (2)	£217	£51	23.7%	£19	8.7%	32.4%	£234	£46	19.9%	£32	13.6%	33.5%
DWP	£2,303	£80	3.5%	£200	8.7%	12.2%	£2,177	£184	8.4%	£194	8.9%	17.3%
FCDO (1)							£1,486	£292	19.7%	£237	16.0%	35.7%
FCO (1, 3)	£443	£22	5.0%	£51	11.4%	16.4%						
HMRC	£1,642	£145	8.9%	£198	12.0%	20.9%	£2,145	£184	8.6%	£260	12.1%	20.7%
HMT	£80	£11	13.8%	£2	2.3%	16.1%	£105	£11	10.8%	£6	6.2%	17.0%
HO	£2,402	£382	15.9%	£240	10.0%	25.9%	£2,988	£622	20.8%	£326	10.9%	31.7%
MOD (4)	£21,138	£1,088	5.1%	£3,417	16.2%	21.3%	£19,501	£949	4.9%	£3,539	18.1%	23.0%
MOJ	£5,068	£1,346	26.6%	£213	4.2%	30.8%	£5,279	£1,224	23.2%	£355	6.7%	29.9%
NDA	£1,735	£46	2.7%	£515	29.7%	32.3%	£1,641	£206	12.6%	£263	16.0%	28.6%
Total	£58,236	£6,569	11.3%	£8,971	15.4%	26.7%	£71,633	£10,186	14.2%	£9,083	12.7%	26.9%

Notes

(1) FCDO became a department in September 2020, part way through FY2020/21, merging DFID and FCO. The FY2020/21 figures for DFID and FCO have therefore been combined in this publication.

(2) DLUHC formerly (for the periods reported in this publication) MHCLG.

(3) FCO spend figures were calculated using UK spend data.

(4) MOD total procurement and direct spend figures are for the core department and DSTL (Executive Agency) only. All other Executive Agencies and NDPBs are excluded.