

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: UKRI budget
Date: 10 March 2021 14:45:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find below a reactive statement from UKRI to Research Fortnight (main press organ of the R&I community in the UK) following a leak to RF with details of pending budget cuts. Obviously ODA doesn't affect our links with Canada but you will see there is also a comment on the overall budget settlement, which is at this point in time not agreed.

We'll keep you posted on anything you need to be aware of, but thought this would be a helpful heads up.

Best
[REDACTED]

UKRI required to review all Official Development Assistance funding

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is reviewing all Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding in the financial year 2021/22 following a significant reduction in its allocation from the Government.

In November the UK Chancellor announced a reduced UK ODA target from 0.7% to 0.5% Gross National Income (GNI) due to financial pressures as a result of Covid-19 and its impact on the economy.

For the financial year 21/22, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) ODA allocation to UKRI has been reduced to £125m. This leaves us with a shortfall of £120m between our allocation and our commitments to our grant holders.

It is too early to detail the final impact of this review on individual grants funded by the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF), Newton Fund and other ODA funds within our councils including Innovate UK.

We expect to be making some very difficult decisions – including issuing grant termination notices. We will endeavour to work with grant holders to mitigate these cuts as far as possible by reducing spend in 21/22 and reprofiling spend into future years.

UKRI Chief Executive Professor Dame Ottoline Leyser said:

“Since 2014, with the decision to spend a significant element of the ODA budget on research and innovation, the research and innovation community has worked to establish high quality collaborations across developing countries and to build a powerful portfolio of projects aimed at addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

“We are only too aware of the impact the sudden reduction to our ODA budget will have on these programmes, on the research and innovation community, and on the researchers, partners and communities around the world with whom we have been working so closely over many years.

“Given the situation in which we find ourselves, we are now focused on working with everyone to implement these cuts as fairly and transparently as possible. We are anxious to use whatever options are available to manage and mitigate their impacts.”

Commenting on UKRI’s overall budget settlement, Professor Leyser added:

“The pandemic continues to have a profound impact on the UK economy, and the subsequent effect on public sector finances was evident in the Chancellor’s Budget on the 3rd March.

“Last November the Spending Review outlined the BEIS budget and we continue to discuss with them the detail of the UKRI settlement and non-ODA allocation for 2021/22, and where possible, for 22/23 and 23/24.

“We are preparing for a difficult financial year ahead. We will work to sustain as much capability and capacity as we can across the research and innovation system and to champion its extraordinary potential to fuel the post-pandemic recovery, building a greener and more inclusive knowledge economy.”

ODA grant holders or partner organisations who have questions should contact via ODAenquires@ukri.org.

ENDS

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