

UKRI ODA adjustment funding – 10 February 2022

Additional ODA funding of £19.7 million is being made available across the 46 Research Organisations who were most impacted by last year's review of ODA funding.

This additional ODA money is aimed at partially off-setting some of the reductions across UK Research and Innovation's GCRF and Newton portfolio.

The reallocation of this additional funding follows end of Financial Year analyses by UKRI and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) of their ODA budgets.

A number of factors and pieces of information have enabled this additional ODA money for 2021-22 to be released including Covid disruption to project timescales, general project slippage and the releasing of contingency budgets.

The Research Organisations will receive between £100K and £1.35M. A full list of Research Organisations will be published once this financial year has ended.

UKRI International Champion Professor Christopher Smith said: "We are aware of and deeply regret the huge problems caused for you by these fluctuations in funding, and we are sorry that we have only been able to finalise this advice at short notice. We have targeted, as far as possible, this additional funding to the areas of greatest need, helping you sustain your GCRF work and partnerships."

Background

The decision by the UK Government to reduce the Official Development Assistance target from 0.7% Gross National Income (GNI) to 0.5% resulted in a rapid contraction of the ODA budget with all Government Departments impacted. The reduction in overall target and subsequent prioritisation between and within departments led to UKRI, in February 2021, receiving a reduced settlement of £125 million, an initial reduction of 70%. Mitigation initiatives implemented by UKRI reduced the shortfall to just over £70M. Full details of UKRI's ODA Review can be found [here](#).

Q&As

How will this impact no-cost extensions?

We are currently working closely with BEIS to finalise a decision on no-cost extension requests and hope to have this resolved as soon as possible.

How has the money been allocated across the 46 institutions?

The additional funding is being distributed on a basis that is directly proportionate to the reductions made earlier in the fiscal year.

Is this extra money a result of UKRI over cutting during the Review?

All funding decisions as part of the ODA Review were based on the best assessments of the information available at the time, recognising the desire to minimise the level of cuts necessary.

However, following end of year financial analyses we are now able to partially off-set some of the reductions across our GCRF and Newton portfolio. A number of factors and pieces of information have enabled this additional ODA money for 2021-22 to be released including Covid disruption to project timescales, general project slippage and the releasing of contingency budgets.

How has UKRI considered smaller research organisations that have been disproportionately impacted?

This funding has been allocated to institutions which have experienced the largest reductions. This includes some smaller, ODA specialist organisations that have been particularly impacted by these reductions.

Could this money have saved some in-flight grant programmes?

Our priority throughout has been to support current research and innovation projects.

Why is the money being given to Research Organisations rather than directly to projects?

Research organisations took responsibility for managing the ODA reductions for UKRI and are now best placed to allocate this adjustment funding to ensure maximum value and impact.

Could jobs have been saved if this underspend was distributed sooner?

UKRI has acted as soon as the opportunity became evident.

Does this mean UKRI knows its ODA settlement for 2022 onwards?

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has communicated to the delivery partners of its Newton Fund and Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) that legal commitments for existing projects from 2022/23 will be met.

UKRI is awaiting specific details on our overall ODA allocation following the Spending Review.