

G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group
Accountability Report Questionnaire 2014



SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PROGRESS

1. Please provide a high-level summary of the most significant Anti-Corruption measures or initiatives that your country has introduced or implemented since the last progress report. (maximum 1 paragraph).

The 2013 Progress Report can be accessed at http://en.g20russia.ru/docs/g20_russia/materials.html

The UK continues to formalise measures to implement a publicly accessible central registry of company beneficial ownership information, and recently published a formal response setting out how this reform will be implemented. This publication can be read at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/company-ownership-transparency-and-trust-discussion-paper>. Primary and secondary legislation is required to take this forward and it remains the UK's intention to legislate as soon as Parliamentary time allows. In addition, the UK will abolish the use of bearer shares and limit the use of corporate directors in order to reduce its exposure to financial crime risk. Legislation will be amended ensuring that directors, including nominees, understand their obligations and duties.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC)

2. Has your country ratified the UNCAC?

YES NO

If no, is there a process underway to ratify the Convention?

3. Since the last progress report, has your country proposed or implemented any changes to its legislation to comply with the UNCAC?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

4. Has your country begun the UNCAC peer review process as a country under review?

YES NO

If yes, please indicate what stage of review your country has completed and the date.

The review of the UK for Chapter III "Criminalization and law enforcement" and Chapter IV "International cooperation" and took place in 2012.

5. If yes, has your country made use of any of the UNCAC peer review voluntary options, or committed to do so (if the review is not already started)?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| a. Publication of full report | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> | COMMITTED TO DO SO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Involvement of civil society | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> | COMMITTED TO DO SO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Involvement of business | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> | COMMITTED TO DO SO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Allowing country visits | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> | COMMITTED TO DO SO <input type="checkbox"/> |

If yes, please provide details (e.g., Web link for published report, how and when civil society / business was engaged during the review process, date of country visit)

Link to published UK report: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/treaties/CAC/country-profile/profiles/GBR.html>

Country visit by reviewers took place at 26-30 March 2012 and included meetings between country reviewers and both business and civil society groups.

6. Has your country taken steps to respond to recommendations identified in its UNCAC peer review report?

YES YES TO SOME NO NOT YET RECEIVED THE REPORT

If yes, please indicate what steps your country has taken / is taking.

The UK has committed, as part of its Open Government Partnership National Action Plan to publish a cross-government anti-corruption Action Plan that, among other things, will address (at least some of) the issues raised in the UNCAC review. This is due to be published later this year.

7. If you have responded to all or some of the recommendations, have you made those responses publicly available?

YES NO NOT YET

8. Has your country taken measures to promote, facilitate and support technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption?

If yes, please provide a short overview indicating in which regions and topics you have provided technical assistance.

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) supports a wide range of anti-corruption activities in partner countries, including prevention, enforcement and asset recovery. This includes support for public financial management reform, such as strengthening national audit offices (e.g. Ghana, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam); assistance to anti-corruption commissions or similar entities in partner countries (including Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Jamaica); increasing investigation and prosecution capability in Nigeria and Tanzania; improving scrutiny of public expenditure through parliamentary oversight and civil society engagement in countries such as Bangladesh, Ghana and Kenya.

Each DFID country office has published an anti-corruption strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/anti-corruption-strategies-by-country>

DFID also funds the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre <http://www.u4.no>

BRIBERY

Note - questions relating to implementation of the G20 *Principles on the Enforcement of the Foreign Bribery Offence* endorsed by Leaders in 2013 and the OECD *Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions* are included in a separate questionnaire. The questions below concern other aspects of bribery not covered by this set of principles.

9. Has your country criminalized the domestic offer or payment of bribes (active bribery)?

YES NO

10. Has your country criminalized the domestic solicitation or acceptance of bribes (passive bribery)?

YES NO

11. If no, is your country taking steps to criminalize active and/or passive bribery?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

N/A

12. Has your country instituted measures to discourage the solicitation of bribes?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The UK has implemented measures or supported activities in each of the areas identified in the G20 principles against solicitation. The UK Bribery Act prohibits passive bribery (which includes requesting, agreeing to receive or accepting bribes) regardless of the status of the passive party. Passive bribery has been outlawed in statute since 1889. Public officials in the UK who are suspected of taking bribes are often charged with the common law offence of Misconduct in Public Office. The UK civil service has a strong culture of integrity with clear standards of conduct (see response to Q.46). The Serious Fraud Office has established a confidential online reporting mechanism for corruption including (passive) bribery. The UK also supports initiatives such as the pilot of a high-level reporting mechanism in Colombia.

14. Does your country provide support for/work with business in resisting solicitation?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The Ministry of Justice Guidance on bribery prevention for commercial organisations addresses

measures that commercial organisations can take that will help to discourage solicitation of bribes (including facilitation payments).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bribery-act-2010-guidance>

The Overseas Business Risk website <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-business-risk> provides information to companies on how to identify and guard against certain risks including bribery when trading overseas.

15. Has your country instituted measures to discourage facilitation payments?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The concept that small “facilitation” payments do not constitute payments made “to obtain or retain business or other improper advantage” is derived from commentary 9 of the OECD Bribery Convention. The UK does not recognise facilitation payments as anything other than a bribe and as such they are discouraged by being an offence under the UK Bribery Act 2010 (and are illegal under the Prevention of Corruption Act(s) that preceded the Bribery Act) regardless of their size or frequency.

Whether or not authorities will prosecute in respect of any bribe will be governed by the Full Code Test in the [Code for Crown Prosecutors](#) and the [Joint Prosecution Guidance of the Director of the SFO and the Director of Public Prosecutions on the Bribery Act 2010](#). Where relevant, the [Joint Guidance on Corporate Prosecutions](#) will also be applied.

If on the evidence there is a realistic prospect of conviction, the authorities will prosecute if it is in the public interest to do so.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

16. Since the 2013 progress report, has your country taken any measures to implement the revised FATF standards on anti-money laundering?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The UK continues to formalise measures to implement a publically accessible central registry of company beneficial ownership information, and recently published a formal response setting out how this reform will be implemented. This publication can be read at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/company-ownership-transparency-and-trust-discussion-paper>. Primary and secondary legislation is required to take this forward and it remains the UK's intention to legislate as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

In addition, the UK will abolish the use of bearer shares and limit the use of corporate directors in order to reduce its exposure to financial crime risk. Legislation will be amended ensuring that directors, including nominees, understand their obligations and duties.

The UK remains committed to full and maximum implementation of the existing FATF standards through its contribution to the EU's ongoing Fourth Money Laundering Directive negotiations.

As per FATF Recommendation 1, the UK continues to progress with its national risk assessment on money laundering and terrorist financing. Extensive engagement has been conducted nationally and it is on track to be completed by the end of 2014.

The National Crime Agency was established in October 2013. It brings together all those working on organised crime within the UK. Within the NCA the Economic Crime Command has an innovative and improved capability to deal with economic crimes, including money laundering, and the UK's Financial Intelligence Unit sits within the NCA.

17. Since the last progress report, have changes to your country's anti-money laundering legislation been proposed or implemented?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

As noted above, the UK has set out via the Government response of April 2014 how we intend to take forward the proposals of implementing a register of company beneficial ownership information, abolishing bearer shares, and tackling the misuse of corporate and nominee directors.

In addition, the UK is fully committed to the successful negotiations of the EU's Fourth Money Laundering Directive.

DENIAL OF ENTRY

18. Have any changes to your country's legislation, regulations or powers to deny entry to foreign officials charged with or convicted of corruption offences been proposed/implemented since the last progress report?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

If no, is such legislation under consideration?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

19. Is your country's administration of mutual legal assistance consistent with the G20 High Level Principles?

YES NO

If your country's approach is not yet consistent, are you taking steps to implement the Principles?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

N/A

20. Are you aware of your country having used one or more of the G20 country Guides to Mutual Legal Assistance?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

21. Are you aware of non-G20 members having used the G20 Guide to Mutual Legal Assistance to request mutual assistance from your country?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

22. Have any changes to your country's legislation related to international cooperation been proposed since the last progress report?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

Amendments to the Extradition Act 2003 have been made in the Crime and Courts Act 2013 and Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, following the Baker review of UK extradition procedures (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-the-united-kingdoms-extradition-arrangements>).

23. Has your country either used UNCAC, or stated that it will allow the use of UNCAC, as the treaty basis for mutual legal assistance (MLA) and/or extradition?

a. Has used as the treaty basis for MLA YES NO

- b. Will allow use as the treaty basis for MLA YES NO
- c. Has used as the treaty basis for extradition YES NO
- d. Will allow use as the treaty basis for extradition YES NO

24. Do domestic authorities in your country cooperate and share information with the integrity offices of international organizations?

- a. Cooperate and share information
- b. Could cooperate, but has not been asked
- c. Cannot cooperate

If you cannot cooperate, please provide details.

25. Has your country designated an appropriate authority responsible for mutual legal assistance and law enforcement requests relating to asset recovery (a point of contact)?

YES NO

If yes, to which organizations:

- a. UNODC
- b. StAR/Interpol Focal Point Initiative
- c. Camden Asset Recovery Network
- d. Other(s)

If yes to 'Other(s)', please provide details.

ASSET RECOVERY

26. Does your country have legislation allowing for asset recovery by foreign authorities or is such legislation proposed?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (External Requests and Orders) Order 2005

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (External Requests and Orders) (Amendment) Order 2008

27. Has your country established a specialist/dedicated unit for the recovery of the proceeds of corruption?

YES NO

If yes, please provide the name of the specialist unit and contact details.

The Metropolitan Police Proceeds of Corruption Unit investigates allegations of corrupt foreign politicians or officials laundering money through the UK, including recovering assets. Contact DCI Jonathan Benton, Proceeds of Corruption Unit, UK Asset Recovery Task Force. New Scotland Yard, SW1H 5AA, UK.

The Crown Prosecution Service has a Proceeds of Crime Unit (POCU). The POCU's casework includes dealing with external requests for registration of external orders and enforcement of external orders. Contact: CPS Proceeds of Crime Unit, Rose Court, 2 Southwark Bridge, London, SE1 9HS. Tel: +44 (0) 20 3357 0000

28. Does your country publish or otherwise make publicly available details of amounts frozen, seized, recovered or returned?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

Data are published (see for example www.oecd.org/dac/SLM2013_issue%20paper%20illicit%20flows.pdf) although not on a systematic basis.

29. Is your country providing technical assistance to developing countries aimed at helping the recovery and return of proceeds of corruption?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

DFID was a founding funder of the World Bank's Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR) and also provides funding to the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) at the Basel Institute of Governance, which provides assistance in developing countries. The UK has also seconded a technical advisor to Egypt to assist with asset recovery.

TRANSPARENCY OF LEGAL ENTITIES

30. Does your country have transparency requirements for legal persons, including companies, bodies corporate, foundations and partnerships?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

All companies are required to file with [Companies House](#) an annual return including the name of the company, the registered office address of the company, the details of all the company's directors, accounts and information about shareholders. Any information submitted to Companies House will be placed on the public register e.g. company accounts, annual returns, director appointments and shareholder information.

Disclosure requirements for Limited Liability Partnerships are similar to those of a company. LLPs are required to provide financial information equivalent to that of companies, including the filing of annual accounts, notification of changes to the LLP's membership, changes to their members' names or any change to their Registered Office Address.

31. Does your country require that the beneficial ownership and company formation of all legal persons organized for profit be reported by the legal person?

YES NO

If yes, to whom is it reported?

Yes, though not yet implemented. This will be to a registry held by Companies House.

32. If yes, is this information available to the public?

YES NO

Yes, the information will be publicly accessible though this has not yet been implemented.

33. If this information is not available to the public, is it available to law enforcement?

YES NO

Although not yet implemented, law enforcement will be able to access more information than will be available publicly, including full date of birth and address.

WHISTLE BLOWER PROTECTION

34. Does your country have legislation to protect whistleblowers:

a. In the public sector

YES

NO

b. In the private sector

YES

NO

35. Have changes to whistle blower protection legislation been proposed or implemented since the last monitoring report?

YES

NO

If yes, please provide details.

36. Since the last progress report, has your country implemented any measures to protect journalists reporting incidents of corruption?

YES

NO

If yes, please provide details

PROCUREMENT

37. Does your country publish online any of the following?

- a. Procurement laws and policies including any legislation defining the use of exceptions YES NO
- b. Selection and evaluation criteria YES NO
- c. Awards of contracts and modifications of contracts YES NO

Please provide details.

<http://procurement.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/> is the UK central government site for procurement information. Details of procurement laws and policies can be found at <http://procurement.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/policy-capability/latest-policy-and-regulations/public-procurement-policy>. Transparency data can be found at <http://gps.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about-government-procurement-service/transparency-and-accountability>, including details of all Government Procurement Card transactions over £500 and all other financial transactions over £25,000 made by the Government Procurement Service, as well as information on all contracts over £10,000. The UK Government produces quarterly reports on procurement and contracting transparency, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/cabinet-office/series/procurement-and-contracting-transparency-progress-reports>.

38. Since the last progress report, have any new initiatives to promote public procurement transparency and integrity been proposed or implemented?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The modernised directive governing public procurement 2014/24/EU which came into force in April 2014 contains a specific new requirement (Article 24) on contracting authorities to prevent detect and avoid conflicts of interest. As noted in the answer to Q39 below, the rules continue to require the exclusion of suppliers who are known to have been convicted of offences related to corruption etc. The grounds for discretionary exclusion have been extended to allow exclusion for agreements aimed at distorting competition, or irremediable conflicts of interest. The UK is current working towards transposition of the new directive into UK law. Within that transposition the UK is also planning to legally require the publication of information of certain contracts on Contracts Finder (as mentioned in the answer to Q36).

39. Are there regulations and procedures for public procurement officials to govern conflicts of interest?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

“Managing Public Money” (Government guidance for those handling or disbursing public funds) has a general requirement on public servants to act with high levels of probity. Annex 4.6, covering public procurement expects fair and open competition, adherence with legal obligations, separation of duties, and high professional standards. These will include avoidance of conflicts of interest. Some public bodies have explicit provisions in their own internal processes and procedures to prevent and avoid conflicts of interest.

40. Are companies that have been found to be involved in corrupt contracting practices excluded from future participation in public tenders?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The European public procurement directive 2004/18/EC obliges the exclusion of companies from contracts subject to the rules where those suppliers are known to have been convicted of defined offences including corruption (suppliers may be excluded for other offences causes. (The UK implements that directive in the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 as amended, plus separate legislation in Scotland) . A new public procurement directive 2014/254/EU which came into force in April retains (and expands) the list of exclusionary grounds. The UK is currently working on the transposition of this directive.

41. If yes, is the debarment list of International Financial Institutions taken into account?

YES NO

42. Are the names of companies excluded from future participation in public tenders made publicly available?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

DISCLOSURE BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

43. Does your country require disclosure by public officials of:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| a. Income | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Assets | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Conflicts of interest | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Gifts | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Other | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

If yes, please provide details.

Members of Parliament (including the Prime Minister and other ministers) are required to complete and update annually the Register of Members' Financial Interests <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmregmem/memi02.htm>. This is publicly available online.

The Register of Members' Financial Interests aims "to provide information of any pecuniary interest or other material benefit which a Member receives which might reasonably be thought by others to influence his or her actions, speeches or votes in Parliament, or actions taken in his or her capacity as a Member of Parliament." These include directorships; remunerated employment, office, profession etc.; clients; sponsorships; gifts, benefits and hospitality; overseas visits; overseas benefits and gifts; land or property; shareholdings; any other relevant interests.

Civil Servants are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the department in which they serve. These disclosures are not published. The management of potential conflicts of interest is governed by the Civil Service Code <http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/values>.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS' IMMUNITIES

44. Does your country provide immunities from prosecution to individuals holding public offices for corruption related offences?

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| a. All public office holders | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Certain public office holders | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. No immunities available to public office holders | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. While in office | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Permanently | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

If yes, which public office holders are immune and if immunity is limited, please explain.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

45. Is your country involved in any of the following international anti-corruption educational initiatives?

International Anti-Corruption Academy YES NO

UNODC Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative YES NO

Other international anti-corruption educational initiative(s) YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The UK is a member of the IACA and UK officials provide expertise for educational events. UK officials have been involved in variety of educational events organised by a number of international organisations for example those organised under the auspices of EU Commission (TAIEX, CEDDET), the John Smith Memorial Trust and UNODC (in association with IACA).

UK government is not involved directly in UNODC's ACAI but DFID funded the UNCAC legal library and UK academic institutions are involved in the initiative.

UK DFID is a long-standing supporter of the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, which provides anti-corruption courses for development practitioners: <http://www.u4.no/training/>

46. Does your country provide anti-corruption educational/training programs for officials, including public office holders?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The Civil Service provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 places the Civil Service values (integrity, honest, objectivity and impartiality) on a statutory footing and includes the publication of a Civil Service Code, which sets out the standards of behaviour expected of civil servants. It forms part of the terms and conditions of employment of every civil servant and as such is incorporated into induction training for civil servant <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/cabinet-office/series/civil-service-conduct-and-guidance>. Additional guidance exists for civil servants' contact with lobbyists and on receiving hospitality. In addition, All UK civil servants are required to undergo compulsory anti-fraud and corruption training.

UK Trade & Investment commercial officers receive training and advice in helping companies avoid corruption and paying bribes and reporting wrongdoing. The Economic Crime and Fraud Training Academy of the City of London Police provides training on investigating bribery and corruption to law enforcement officers and other relevant officials.

47. Does your country or business associations in your country promote anti-corruption training for the private sector?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

<http://www.ibe.org.uk/>
<http://www.fticonsulting.co.uk/global2/press-releases/united-kingdom/free-online-anti-bribery-training-course-launched-by-fti.aspx>
<http://www.anticorruptionforum.org.uk/acf/fs/training/>

48. Has your country disseminated G20 products and documents developed by the group with relevant domestic authorities?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

For example, asset recovery country profiles have been used by UK Home Office.

JUDICIARY

49. Has your country taken any measures to promote and disseminate the Bangalore Principles for Judicial Integrity?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details

The Guide to Judicial Conduct 2013 produced by the Judiciary for all judicial office holders mentions the Bangalore Principles for Judicial Integrity at page 7 of the document. The guidance can be downloaded from the following link : http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/JCO/Documents/Guidance/judicial_conduct_2013.pdf. In addition the Judicial College provides training on the substance of the Principles in a cross jurisdictional course entitled The Business of Judging, open to judges from every jurisdiction and repeated three times a year. The training takes the form of small group discussions on filmed scenarios in which aspects of the Principles are brought into account. The College is adding a further dimension to this training in the provision of an eLearning orientation course for all new judges to be launched later this year. A core part of the course will involve work on the Principles.

50. Has your country taken other measures to promote the accountability and independence of the Judiciary?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details

Apart from s.3 of the Constitutional Reform Act (guarantee of continued judicial independence), the duty to uphold judicial independence is set out in the Cabinet Manual (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cabinet-manual> the Manual sets out the main laws, rules and conventions affecting the conduct and operation of government). Civil servants, ministers, and in particular the Lord Chancellor, are under a duty to uphold the continued independence of the judiciary, and must not seek to influence particular judicial decisions. In taking up judicial office judges are required to take the judicial oath which acknowledges the fact that the judge is primarily accountable to the law which he or she must administer. These issues are also covered in similar terms in the two training courses outlined in the answer to the last question.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVES

51. Is your country supporting or implementing any sector-specific initiatives?

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

Implementing

YES

NO

Support

YES

NO

Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST)

Implementing

YES

NO

Support

YES

NO

Other (specify below)

Implementing

YES

NO

Support

YES

NO

Please provide details on other sectoral initiatives supported by your country, or domestic measures taken in relation to specific sectors.

FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) Initiative: <http://www.euflegt.efi.int/home>

52. Does your government have integrity pacts with the business sector?

YES

NO

If yes, please provide details.

FISCAL AND BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

53. Has your country taken steps to implement the IMF Good Practices in Fiscal Transparency?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

The UK has taken a range of steps to achieve a high degree of fiscal transparency, taking into account both the IMF Good Practices and the OECD Best Practices, for example:

- Publishing the Charter for Budget Responsibility, which sets out the government's approach to fiscal policy and management of the public finances.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charter-for-budget-responsibility>

- Providing detailed fiscal reporting for the whole of the public sector on an accruals basis and through Clear Line of Sight. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hm-treasury-alignment-clear-line-of-sight-project-march-2009>

- Publishing an audited Whole of Government Accounts on an annual basis

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/whole-of-government-accounts> .

- Establishing the independent Office for Budget Responsibility

(<http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/>) in 2010 with a duty to produce official forecasts (on which fiscal policy is based) as well as assess the government's performance against its stated fiscal targets. In their medium-term forecasts the OBR include sensitivity analysis as well as looking at balance sheet and long-term risks.

- The annual Budget covers all central government expenditure with clear parliamentary oversight procedures. Parliament endorses the government's medium-term fiscal strategy (as set out in the Charter for Budget Responsibility) and there is also a debate on the fiscal policy stance contained in Budget and Autumn Statement documents. <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/budget-2014>

The UK ranked third on the 2012 Open Budget Index with a score of 88 out of 100, compared to an average score of 43 for all the 100 countries surveyed. This indicates "that the government provides the public with extensive information on the national government's budget and financial activities during the course of the budget year".

54. Has your country taken steps to implement the OECD Best Practices on Budget Transparency?

YES NO

If yes, please provide details.

See response to previous question.

Thank your for your time in completing this questionnaire.