

**The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
response to ICAI's review of the GCRF: ODA and untied aid**

After ICAI published its review of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) the government published a response to the review's recommendations which can be found [here](#).

In addition, the review asked the government to respond directly on whether the funding conditions of the GCRF are consistent with its commitment not to tie UK aid, and on issues surrounding the ODA eligibility of the Funding Councils' GCRF allocations.

The government sent ICAI the following response:

"The HM Government's response to the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) rapid review of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) responded directly to the review's conclusions and recommendations. In conjunction with this, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has provided the following additional information on other key findings in the report.

"The Government remains committed to keeping UK aid untied. Following the publication of the ICAI report, we have reviewed our current GCRF spend, including by the Research Councils, and are content this is being accurately reported as untied to the OECD DAC. The approach we take here is consistent with the way many other major donors report their research aid funding. For example, Australia, Canada, Belgium, Denmark and Norway report their funding to their own research bodies as untied.

"The ICAI report also expressed concerns around GCRF provided by the four regional funding bodies to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). We have carefully considered these and agreed a number of actions with the funding bodies. For 2017/18, each funding body will now undertake 100% monitoring of all HEIs in receipt of GCRF funds to provide greater assurance to the BEIS Research and Innovation ODA Board that current activities are ODA compliant and represent value for money. For 2018/19 onwards, each funding body will be developing a systematic process by which HEIs will provide a forward-looking strategy for use of their GCRF allocation. We will be happy to provide further information to ICAI once the processes have been fully developed."