

2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Strengthening UK global influence

The Government today announced that funding for the FCO will grow from £1.6 billion in 2007-08 to £1.7 billion by 2010-11, with additional resources for counter-radicalisation programmes and significant investment in the embassy network. The 2007 CSR provides the FCO with the resources to deliver:

- a £183 million capital investment programme, to improve security across the UK's embassy network as well as provide for a new Embassy in Kabul; and
- additional funding of £37 million a year by 2010-11, to support the Government's counter-radicalisation programmes, addressing weakness in governance, education, civil society, human rights and rule of law in priority countries.

This will be underpinned by a continuing programme of modernisation, cutting the cost of the overseas network through an innovative shared services programme and redeploying resources to the front-line.

The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, and the major reprioritisation undertaken in recent years by the BBC World Service and British Council, will enable both to continue to make an important contribution to the UK's public diplomacy. £21 million a year by 2010-11 will be provided for the launch of a new Farsi television channel and 24/7 Arabic TV. These services will give the BBCWS a tri-media presence (radio, online and TV) in the Middle East, Iran and Afghanistan. The British Council will receive an additional £3 million a year by 2010-11 for its Reconnect initiative to build understanding with Muslim societies, particularly amongst alienated younger populations.

The FCO will continue to be at the forefront of the United Kingdom's efforts to keep Britain secure and prosperous - helping to counter the threat from terrorism, building international commitment on climate change, making sure Europe works for Britain, and looking after British nationals and British interests across the globe.

The Foreign Secretary, David Milliband, said

“With this settlement, the FCO can continue working to keep Britain secure and prosperous, and promoting Britain’s values around the world.”

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The additional funding provided by this CSR settlement will be accompanied by value for money reforms realising annual net cash-releasing savings of at least £144 million by 2010-11.
2. Details relating to the settlement covering United Kingdom Trade and Investment, a joint FCO-Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) department, are set out in the BERR CSR press notice.

Table

Foreign and Commonwealth Office baseline and additions

	£ million			
	Baseline 2007-08	Additions 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11		
Resource DEL	1,551	41	57	66
<i>of which near-cash</i>	1,394	41	57	66
<i>of which administration</i>	396	-10	-19	-28
Capital DEL	148	58	68	57
Total DEL¹	1,581	99	125	123
<i>Of which:</i>	0	0	0	0
British Council	193	3	8	4
BBC World Service	246	19	26	25

¹ Full resource budgeting basis, net of depreciation.

For further details on FCO 's settlement and their Departmental Strategic Objectives over the CSR07 period, please see *The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: Meeting the aspirations of the British people* www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/pbr_csr07_index.cfm

The Government today announced 30 cross-departmental Public Service Agreements, setting out the top priorities for the CSR07 period. For further details on these please see:
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/pbr_csr07_index.cfm

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