

CHAPTER 3

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments included in this chapter:

- I. Department for International Development

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I. Introduction

The aim of the Department for International Development (DfID) is the elimination of poverty in poorer countries which the department pursues through the policy of sustainable development. DfID's objectives for the international development programme are: policies and actions which promote sustainable livelihoods; better education, health and opportunities for poor people and protection and better management of the natural and physical environment. DfID is also responsible for the expenditure on overseas superannuation where the department's objective is the accurate and timely payment of Colonial and Indian Service pensions.

DfID's UK Headquarters is split between offices in London (which are rented and so not included in this register) and East Kilbride. The superannuation programme is administered entirely from the latter location. The department also has seven overseas centres of operation which administer a large part of the international development programme - Nairobi, Harare, Pretoria, Bangkok, Barbados, New Delhi and Dhaka.

DfID is not a capital intensive organisation. The asset register details by location information on each category of fixed assets used in administering DfID's programmes. The register serves two main purposes - it provides information required for resource accounting, particularly the production of a balance sheet, and it helps to assess centrally the extent to which fixed assets are being deployed within the organisation, particularly in confirming whether ownership is warranted and represents value for money.

The capitalisation threshold employed by the department is £1000. On the international development side, items purchased under specific projects are deemed to be owned by the aid recipient and so are not included in the register.

2. Departmental Asset Register

United Kingdom

- Land and Buildings - Abercrombie House, East Kilbride
- IT Equipment - The department has 1314 desktop PCs, 44 servers, 496 printers and 237 laptop PCs together with many associated items of IT equipment.
- Fixtures and Fittings - The department has many items of general office furniture and equipment needed to meet its operational requirements.

Nairobi

- Motor Vehicles - 7 vehicles
- Fixtures and Fittings - The office has a number of items of general office furniture and equipment needed to meet its requirements.

Harare

- Land and Buildings - 3 houses
- IT Equipment - The office has 59 PCs together with a number of items of peripheral equipment.
- Motor Vehicles - 3 vehicles
- Fixtures and Fittings - The office has 6 House Packs, 44 Office Packs* and a number of other items of general office furniture and equipment needed to meet its requirements.

Pretoria

- IT Equipment - The office has 41 PCs and 2 servers together with a number of items of peripheral equipment.
- Motor Vehicles - 4 vehicles
- Fixtures and Fittings - The office has 16 House Packs, 33 Office Packs* and a number of other items of general office furniture and equipment needed to meet its requirements.

Bangkok

- IT Equipment - The office has 41 desktop PCs, 4 servers and 5 laptop PCs together with a number of items of peripheral equipment.
- Fixtures and Fittings - The office has 27 Office Packs* and a number of other items of general office furniture and equipment needed to meet its requirements.

Barbados

- IT Equipment - The office has 47 desktop PCs, 2 servers and 15 laptop PCs together with a number of items of peripheral equipment.
- Motor Vehicles - 2 vehicles
- Fixtures and Fittings - The office has 3 House Packs, 42 Office Packs* and a number of other items of general office furniture and equipment needed to meet its requirements.

New Delhi

- IT Equipment - The office has 107 PCs and 6 servers together with a number of items of peripheral equipment.
- Fixtures and Fittings - The office has 97 Office Packs* and a number of other items of general office furniture and equipment needed to meet its requirements.

Dhaka

- IT Equipment - The office has 49 desktop PCs, 2 servers and 12 laptop PCs together with a number of items of peripheral equipment.
- Fixtures and Fittings - The office has a number of items of general office furniture and equipment needed to meet its requirements.

* A House Pack comprises furniture required per unit of domestic accommodation. An office pack comprises one desk, one chair and one telephone handset.

3. Public Corporations

The Commonwealth Development Corporation

The Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) is a public corporation whose Chairman and Board are appointed by the Secretary of State for International Development. CDC is owned by the Government. CDC makes investments in sustainable commercial enterprises in the poorest countries of the world. The Government recently announced a proposal to allow private sector investors to invest in CDC, turning a state owned corporation into a partnership between the public and private sectors.

Most of CDC's assets are financial. The main tangible fixed asset is the lease on CDC's headquarters building in London. There are some tangible assets overseas in the form of offices etc. The value of the tangible fixed assets is shown in the Annual Accounts of the Corporation.

Net Tangible Fixed Assets as at 31 December 1996

	London Office	Overseas Office	Offshore Group Investment Companies	Total
	£	£	£	£
Land and Buildings	22,604,579	2,278,895	280,014	163,488
Motor Vehicles	48,576	928,068	47,202	1,023,846
Other	4,837,207	1,454, 134	13,991	6,305,332
Total	27,490,362	4,661,097	341,207	32,492,666