



The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 48:

June 2019

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EDITORIAL

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the summer edition of The Four Corners. In this issue we bring you a digest of the latest news from DFID including Ministerial changes and activities in Mozambique and Syria. And we note the current enquiries by the International Development Select Committee and by the NAO on aid effectiveness.

The tribute to Bob Ainscow will bring back many memories for those of us who worked with him. It reminds us how the development of rigorous systems of appraisal and management of aid resources, the important role played by the Projects and Evaluation Committee in assessing new investments and in providing a feedback loop for the lessons of experience all helped over time to establish the reputation of ODA and its successor as professional organisations committed to achieving the best impact from public funds.

As you will see, after a number of warnings, Marc is now standing down definitively as editor of the newsletter. On behalf of all of us I should like to thank him for producing The Four Corners since 2013. Throughout he has maintained a varied and stimulating mix of personal and development news. I hope someone will step forward soon to continue this work which is a central part of the service provided to our members. Marc gives us his farewell reflections.

We are also looking for a new Chair. I am standing down. After six years I feel it is time for someone who more recently retired or left the Department to take up the reins and to work with the Committee on new ideas that meet what alumni would like from their Association. We look forward to expressions of interest!

I wish you all a good summer break even if developments on Brexit will never be far from us.

Simon Ray
Chair



NEWS IN BRIEF

New Secretary of State



On 1 May, Rory Stewart, MP for Penrith and The Border, was appointed International Development Secretary. Mr Stewart served as Minister of State for DFID from 2016, and then jointly as Minister of State for DFID and Minister of State for Africa at the FCO in 2017 to 2018. His predecessor Penny Mordaunt MP was appointed Secretary of State for Defence.

Dr Andrew Murrison MP was appointed Minister of State for DFID and for the Middle East and North Africa at the FCO on 9 May, in place of Alastair Burt MP (Minister of State 2017-2019) who had resigned.

Harriett Baldwin continues as Minister of State for DFID and the FCO. In place of Lord Bates (Minister of State 2016-2019), Baroness Sugg was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in April. She is also a government Whip.

G20 meeting in Osaka, June 2019

At the meeting of world leaders, the Prime Minister Theresa May made a new pledge of £467m a year over three years to support the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

She also led the session on climate change. Rory Stewart committed to increasing UK aid to tackle the climate emergency.

Chairperson of the DFID Alumni Association

We are grateful to Simon Ray for chairing the association since 2013. Simon resigned at the Annual General Meeting on 17 June.

Could you take on this important leadership role? Please contact Simon.

In this edition:

- Charity Commission report on Oxfam
- Aid for victims of Cyclone Kenneth
- NAO report on UK ODA across government
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- DFID Alumni Annual General Meeting
- Simon Ray's reflections
- Summer party June 2019
- Queen's birthday honours
- Bob Ainscow 1936-2019
- Remembering Judith Hart
- Farewell from your editor

And in The Back Pages

- G20 meeting and new UK aid to Global Fund
- Statement on the Ebola crisis in D R Congo
- DFID's new overhead costs template

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN APRIL TO JUNE 2019

April

- Penny Mordaunt gave speech on sexual health rights
- UK aid to develop efficient cooking appliances
- UK Space Agency will tackle environmental issues
- £3m UK aid for victims of Cyclone Kenneth

May

- Rory Stewart appointed secretary of State for International Development
- Secretary of State commented on Commons IDC report on use of UK aid to tackle climate change
- Secretary of State speaks at Africa Financial Services Investment Conference
- Oral statement to Parliament on Ebola in DRC
- New UK aid to tackle violence against women and girls in Syria

June

- Independent institute to enable investors to have positive social impact
- Statements on inquiry into misconduct at Oxfam
- Statement on Ebola in Africa
- 5 million Afghans to receive UK emergency aid
- UK aid for world's largest educational technology research project
- Government statement on NAO report (page 4)
- New UK aid for Palestinian refugees
- Secretary of State launched review of progress towards global goals
- Prime Minister announced new UK aid to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria

EDITOR NEEDED!

The Four Corners first appeared in October 2007. Marc Taylor has edited it since 2013. He is standing down as editor after this edition.

We need a new editor who can keep the Association's quarterly newsletter relevant to alumni around the world.

Please contact Marc (c.marc.taylor@gmail.com) or another member of the DFID Alumni Committee to find out more.

Conservative leadership contest

On 7 June, Theresa May resigned as Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party.

The International Development Secretary Rory Stewart MP took part in the leadership contest. He progressed to the third ballot on 19 June.

Conservative Party members will elect the next Prime Minister from the two candidates chosen by Conservative MPs in their final ballot. Both of them have been Foreign Secretary:

- Jeremy Hunt (MP for South West Surrey) and
- Boris Johnson (MP for Uxbridge and S. Ruislip).

Charity Commission report on Oxfam called for an action plan by 30 June

In February, the Charity Commission announced a statutory inquiry following allegations of sexual misconduct by Oxfam staff involved in its humanitarian response in Haiti.

On 7 June 2019 the Commission issued an official warning under section 75A of the Charities Act 2011 on the grounds there has been some areas of mismanagement in relation to Haiti and its safeguarding governance prior to 2018.

On 10 June 2019 the Commission made an order under section 84 of the Charities Act 2011 directing Oxfam's trustees *to take action expedient in the interests of the charity to give continued public assurance that the outstanding actions to implement the recommendations made by the Independent Review and related matters will be carried out.*

The order directed the trustees *to take actions including to submit an action plan for the Commission's approval by 30 June 2019 which sets out the steps by which it will, acting in the best interests of the charity, implement the outstanding actions relating to*

- 1) recommendations and other actions required by the Commission related to safeguarding risk management and assurance matters in respect of Oxfam's UK shops, and*
- 2) other matters arising from the final report recommendations and findings of the Independent Commission on Sexual Misconduct, Accountability and Culture.*

Further, to then implement those actions by the specific, agreed dates for each one, provide written progress updates until the completion of the work and provide assistance to the follow-up verification work directed, supervised or undertaken by the Commission.

On 11 June the Commission published a [report](#) detailing its criticism of the leadership of the charity for failings in its response to the allegations.

Rory Stewart MP made a [statement](#) the same day on behalf of DFID.

£3m UK aid for victims of Cyclone Kenneth

In May, the UK sent tents and shelter kits to Mozambique to help provide shelter for up to 33,000 people. The UK announced up to £3 million of UK aid to support the victims of Cyclone Kenneth which hit northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania.

Cyclone Kenneth destroyed thousands of homes and displaced tens of thousands of people, coming just weeks after Cyclone Idai hit southern Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Four UK aid experts arrived in Pemba, Mozambique, the centre of the response which has already experienced more than two metres of rain and flooding, to determine how aid could be delivered as quickly as possible to those affected and to assess what further aid is needed.

In addition, UK aid had already been partnering with UK experts at the Met Office, University of Reading and University of Bristol, as well as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), to use satellite technology to predict which areas are most vulnerable to flooding. It was used for the first time in response to Cyclone Idai.

UK aid used this flood risk analysis to guide its preparations and response, and shared information with partners to allow them to do the same, including the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), the Mozambique Disaster Management Team (INGC) and NGOs.

The £3m was new money from the CHASE Contingency Fund. The UK planned to send up to 100 tents, up to 6,500 shelter kits and 1,750 large plastic sheets for emergency shelter to Mozambique.

International Development Select Committee: current inquiries

- [New Secretary of State's priorities](#)
- [Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo](#)
- [Sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector: follow-up](#)
- [Violence against aid workers](#)
- [Humanitarian response to Cyclone Idai](#)
- [DFID's work on disability](#)
- [UK progress on the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)
- [Forced displacement in Africa](#)
- [UK aid for combating climate change](#)

NAO report on the effectiveness of UK official development assistance

On 20 June, the NAO published a [review of UK ODA](#) including spending across the whole of government.

The UK government managed spending so as to hit the target of 0.7% of GDP for the last five years. In line with the 2015 UK Aid Strategy, the proportion of UK ODA spent by DFID went down from 89% in 2013 to 72% by 2017.

The NAO concluded there was insufficient focus on departments' capacity to implement programmes and on their effectiveness. It said limited use of performance information inhibited the government's ability to improve effectiveness.

Widening ODA expenditure to other departments has increased risks to effectiveness. The NAO found good evidence that many programmes within the £14 billion portfolio are securing an impact individually, but overall government is not in a position to be confident that the portfolio in its totality is securing value for money.

The government made a [short statement](#).

New UK aid funding to tackle violence against women and girls in Syria

In May, Baroness Sugg called for urgent action to prevent gender-based violence in humanitarian crises – as she announced new support to tackle the issue in Syria. The International Development Minister spoke at the UN's first conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Humanitarian Crises.

She said that while internationally agreed commitments to protect women and girls have been made, meeting them should be a priority right from the start of humanitarian crises. The new UK aid will aim to prevent violence against women and girls in Syria, by tackling its root causes, and provide safe spaces and support for survivors. The programme will also train midwives and medical professionals to treat and care for survivors of sexual violence.

Baroness Sugg said that no girl or woman should live in fear, yet one in three women globally experience sexual or physical violence. In humanitarian crises, this can rise to more than two in three, and even then the evidence tells us that the most dangerous place for women and girls is often within their own homes. However, UK aid research shows that this violence is preventable.

Violence against women exists because gender inequality exists and because society can have damaging assumptions of what it means to be female. Failure to address this problem during crises undermines our humanitarian support for the very people it is designed to help.

While the international community has made strong commitments on gender-based violence in crises, tackling this problem remains underfunded. Minimum standards are not in place and there is a lack of urgency given to preventing violence against women and girls. Preventing and responding to gender-based violence is everyone's responsibility.

We need to prioritise the protection of women and girls from the outset of humanitarian responses. We must take a 'no regrets' approach to responding to violence. And we need to make sure that women and girls have access to the support they need in crisis settings, including vital sexual and reproductive health services. We must also stand strongly against the rollback of women's rights. That's why I'm proud UK aid will continue to champion, defend and support access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health services for the world's poorest women and girls and those affected by humanitarian crises.

The UK aid funding will support a UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) programme. It will tackle the causes of gender-based violence through community programmes in schools and mosques, which will challenge harmful attitudes towards women that normalise violence, including child marriage and denying women and girls their independence. It will also raise awareness of the physical, social and legal consequences of violence.

Since the beginning of the crisis in 2011 women and girls have made a million visits to UK aid-supported safe spaces in Syria. Here, they can access sexual and reproductive health services, including voluntary contraception and menstrual health products, psychological support, counselling and medical treatment.

DFID added that the UK is a global leader in efforts to eradicate violence against women and girls (VAWG) in all its forms including intimate partner violence, sexual violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), and child, early and forced marriage. The UK is a world-leading investor in research on the prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG). An estimated 26 million women and girls of reproductive age are living in emergency situations. UK aid is committing £7 million this year to support UNFPA's humanitarian operations within Syria to reduce the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) for those most affected by the crisis.

Annual General Meeting

Simon Ray

The AGM of the DFID Alumni Association was held on 17 June. DFID's Permanent Secretary Matthew Rycroft gave a presentation on current policy and plans for the UK development programme and answered a number of questions from members. He appreciated members' continued interest in the work of the Department and welcomed an input from alumni to the current review of DFID's operating model.

In the formal business of the AGM, Pauline Hayes was elected to the Committee and Isobel Doig reappointed. Marc Taylor announced his intention to stand down as editor of Four Corners (see his farewell) and Simon Ray confirmed that he was standing down as chair (see his reflections). It was reported that continuing efforts were being made to implement the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding with DFID signed last year, particularly to strengthen the database of alumni and communication between members through DGroups.

Personal reflections

Simon Ray

When I took over as chair of the Alumni Association in 2013, the immediate concern of the Committee was to address a long-running debate about the role and detailed operation of the Association. I am pleased to say these issues were settled in the new Constitution agreed at the Extraordinary General Meeting we held that December. The Constitution has since then given us a clear framework within which to work.

We have kept up the flow of development and personal stories through the newsletter, run a social programme and stimulated debate and discussion with DFID on some key development issues. I would have liked to see more activity in the regions round the world where alumni are based and not to have business focussed only on those living around London.

I also think there is scope for a more dynamic exchange between alumni and DFID if both sides want it, and although there is a difference between noting the lessons of experience and applying them, I think there is still scope for DFID to draw more on the collective experience of the alumni members.

We have looked at what we could learn from other alumni associations, for example from the EBRD (although this has a much larger budget and membership) and at encouraging more networking between members. These will be ideas for the new chair to consider and take forward with the Committee.

I have much enjoyed the opportunity provided as chair to work with friends and colleagues on the Committee, with the wider membership and with DFID. I have also welcomed the opportunity to stay in touch with DFID's evolving policies and programmes.

A particular interest has been the Department's policies on promoting the rights of disabled children, early childhood intervention, inclusive education and alternatives to institutional childcare.

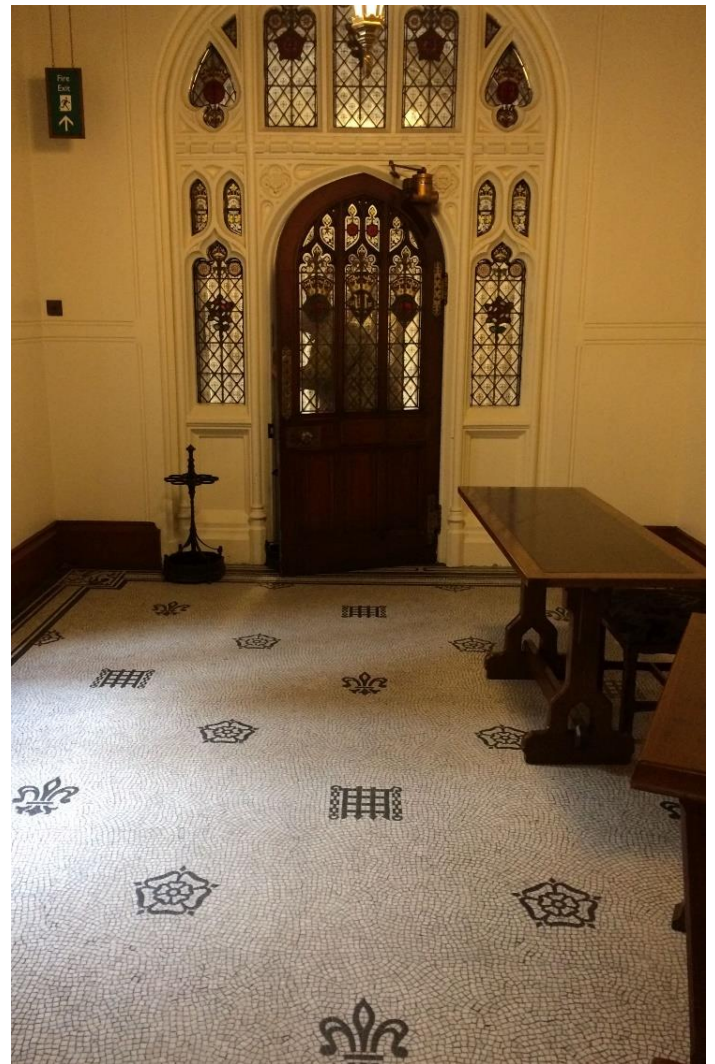
Since I left EBRD, I have chaired an NGO called HealthProm that works in Eastern Europe, Russia and post-Soviet countries to ensure vulnerable children get the best start in life. I was attracted to the organisation by my experience of working in the region with EBRD and earlier with the Know How Fund.

I like HealthProm's approach to building local partnerships, giving voice to those traditionally ignored by governments and professionals and recognising the need for long-term engagement, not necessarily large sums of money.

Like other small organisations we have learnt the challenges of securing and managing funds from large institutional donors. Working with HealthProm has also offered the opportunity to continue to engage with the European Union, building on my past experience working within the European Commission and in coordinated action with them in the Balkans following the Kosovo crisis. Sadly this could be affected by decisions taken on Brexit.

After a turbulent life involved with suffering, war and disaster, Voltaire's Candide is advised that "Il faut cultiver notre jardin".

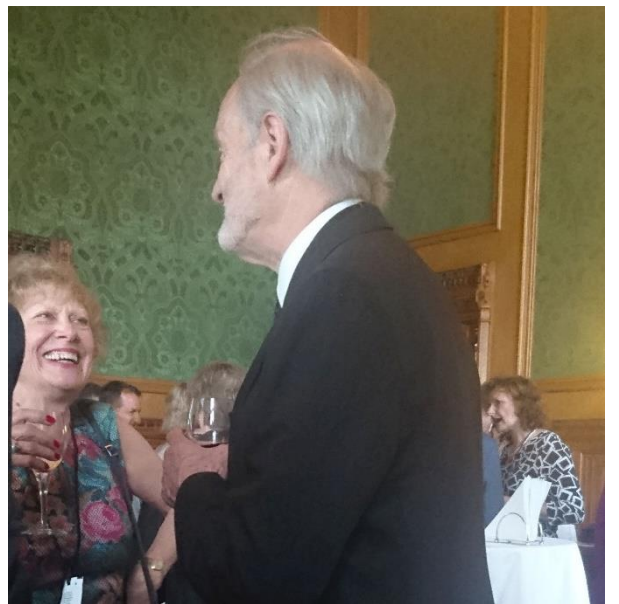
I keep my lawn tidy and dead-head the roses, but still enjoy staying in touch with international affairs. I look forward to remaining engaged with the Alumni Association and with DFID.



Summer party, House of Lords

Thanks to Michael Jay and his colleagues in Parliament, this year's party on 17 June was held in the wonderful River Room in the House of Lords. It has a unique view along the Thames towards Westminster Bridge and the London Eye. Former Ministers joined our alumni for the evening, including Lord Bates and Hillary Benn MP. There were speeches from Lord Michael Jay, Andrew Mitchell MP, DFID's Permanent Secretary Matthew Rycroft and our outgoing chair Simon Ray.





PEOPLE

Queen's Birthday Honours

The latest honours list recognised the contribution to international development of several members of DFID staff.

Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George:

Christopher Derek Bain, for services to International Development and Humanitarian Work.

Professor Charlotte Watts, for services to Global Health and International Development

Commanders of the Order of the British Empire

Rachel Turner, Director, Economic Development, DFID, for services to International Development

Jane Edmondson, Director, East and Central Africa, DFID, for services to International Development.

Dr Delna Gandhi, lately Health Adviser, DFID, for services to tackling Tropical Disease.

Amanda Jane McLoughlin, Head of DFID Lebanon, for services to Humanitarian Relief.

Members of the Order of the British Empire

Jeremy Peter Ash, for services to Women and Girls and International Development.

Bob Ainscow: a tribute

Michael McCulloch

Bob Ainscow's death in April elicited from his ODA/DFID colleagues a rich online patchwork of reflections and memories, diverse but all manifesting a rare blend of respect and affection. Sadly, a long planned first visit to Greece meant I could not attend Bob's funeral. Had I done so and heard Robert Graham-Harrison's words, which he kindly sent me later, I might have resisted Marc Taylor's invitation to write this tribute for Four Corners! In drawing on colleagues' recollections, in an attempt to distil a picture of Bob, I have acknowledged direct quotes; elsewhere I hope readers will feel they have been fairly represented.

Like so many of the young graduates who went on to create the robust professional framework that became a hallmark of our aid programme, Bob did begin his career in a developing country, in his case the ill-fated Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Robert Morrison Ainscow (known in ODA/DFID as Bob) was born on 3 June 1936 in Salford, Greater Manchester, son of Robert M and Hilda Ainscow. He was brought up in Salford and went on to get a BA (Hons) degree in Economics at Liverpool University in 1957.

After graduating he secured a position as an economics statistician with the Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. In 1961 he joined the United Nations Secretariat in New York, serving there as an economics statistician in 1961-65 and again in 1966-68, with a spell in between at the UK Department of Economic Affairs.

Returning to London he joined the Ministry of Overseas Development as an Economic Adviser, remaining with the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) until his retirement in 1996. Promoted to Senior Economic Adviser in 1971, he transferred to the administrative stream in 1976, becoming Head of South Asia Department. Promoted to Under-Secretary in 1979, he served as Principal Finance Officer from 1980-86. In 1986-96 he was Deputy Permanent Secretary.

He chaired the OECD/ DAC Working Party on Finance Aspects of Development Assistance between 1982-86, was a Member of the World Bank Task Force on Concessional Flows from 1983-85, and a Member of the Development Committee Task Force on Multinational Development Banks from 1994 to 1996.

In 1965 he married Faye Bider, whom he met in New York, and with whom he had two children, Katharine Lara and Matthew Robert.

Bob was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB).

His other interests included film, theatre, the modern novel, walking and travel.

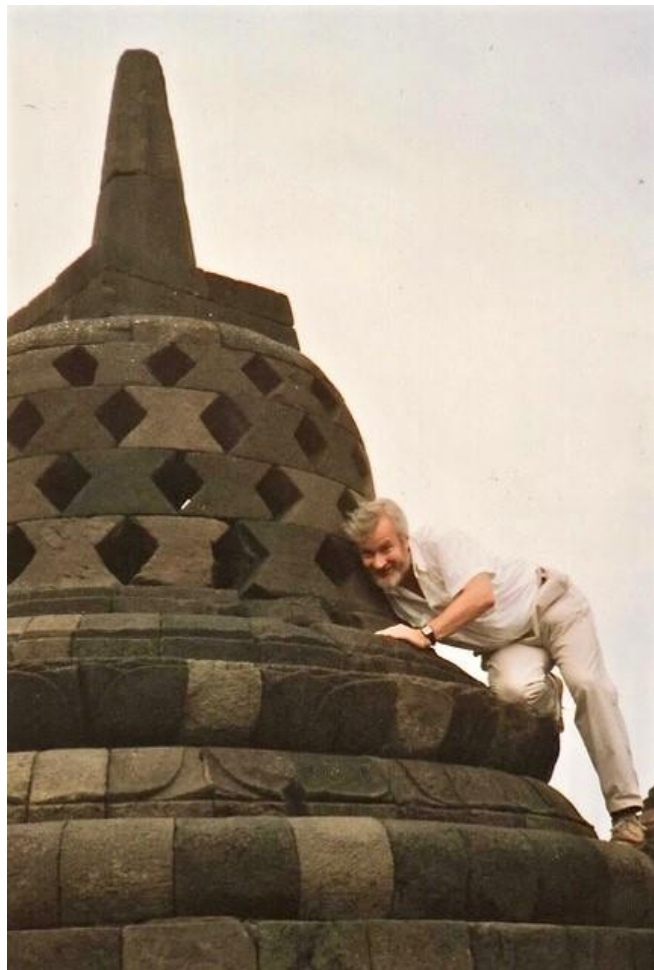
From a photo of him in the bush, bare-chested and in khaki shorts, holding at arm's length a snake, it is clear his introduction to Africa was more than a chair-borne spell as a government economics statistician!

Joining in 1968 ODA's growing band of economists—once reputed to exceed the Treasury's—Bob soon progressed to become a Senior Economic Adviser. He was a leading contributor to the White Paper on Poverty that shaped the aid programme for many years. Bob's next move, a pioneering transition from professional cadre to the administrative stream, provoked some internal controversy at the time, but he soon showed his mettle.

Newly Head of South Asia Department, Bob played a leading part in steering world-class earthquake and liquefaction scientists, seven bilateral and multilateral donors, the Bangladesh Government, and the Ashuganj Fertiliser Company, through complex issues and conflicting objectives, to a resolution of potentially catastrophic safety risks, so enabling the project to proceed successfully.

Over the years he rightly garnered praise and respect for his success in bringing rigour, integrity, attention to evidence, and managerial skill, to the roles in which he made his most significant contributions to ODA's survival and subsequent evolution to become DFID. If he set similar high standards and expectations for colleagues, he also devoted much attention to ensuring the professional support, strong systems, and well-considered procedures, to guide and support them.

Tim Lankester praised Bob's "deep knowledge and understanding of development and of aid policy and systems". The latter were a key factor in enabling the fruitful delegations of authority, to Development Divisions and later to Country Offices, initially without much of the IT our successors at 24 Whitehall can take for granted! Jonathan Lingham recalled that it was Bob who found the simple, if culturally challenging, solution to persistent underspending—encourage programme managers to overcommit.



That did not deter Bob from subsequently quizzing Finance Department how it managed to bring in disbursements to within a few hundred pounds of the target without risking an overspend! In guiding multiple professional disciplines he encouraged advisers to understand that excelling in one's field was necessary but not sufficient. What generated impact and value was capacity to deploy that expertise effectively in institutional, social, and political contexts.

At the apex of aid systems, as Mick Foster reminded us, was Bob's role as Chair of the Projects and Evaluation Committee, which set standards that permeated ODA. While bringing a project to the PEC was always a formidable experience, Bob's approach shaped it as a collaborative testing of each project by Committee members and presenting team, resulting in a more constructive examination of its strengths and risks. In similar vein he discouraged "20-20 hindsight" by evaluators, insisting completed projects be measured against their original outputs and benefits before retrospective judgements were made.

Ros Eyben's account of her first appearance at the PEC, as a co-opted member of the presenting team, bears repeating here because it perfectly illustrates Bob's combination of intellectual rigour and the human touch. Commenting tellingly but with gentle good humour that Ros's intervention "had launched an Exocet" into her team's project, he went on to counsel her to make a field visit and return with recommendations that would address the perceived deficiencies (she did). For Bob such incisive challenges were not a move in some competitive Whitehall verbal game, but flowed naturally from searching for firm ground on which to stand a policy or project, and so improve its prospects of yielding real benefits for those it was intended to help.

A sense of caring for others underpinned Bob's commitment to the alleviation of poverty, but also informed his personal role in assessing and guiding colleagues. As Lindsay Mountford remarked, he was "a wise counsel at a personal as well as a professional level... [with] considerable insights into people..."

Myles Wickstead was persuaded to head European Department when he had "something more exotic and overseas in mind", and acknowledges it was the right decision. As I told Bob to his quiet amusement many years later, I was grateful for his encouragement to see Central and Eastern Europe as offering a new late-career pathway, one that proved fascinating and fulfilling.

With his natural reserve, Bob was not one impatient to seek the limelight—perhaps happiest in collegiate dialogues analysing economic, political and

institutional conditions, assessing risks, and identifying worthwhile outcomes to aim for. If, as Tim Lankester suggested, Bob did not hasten to push boundaries, he certainly brought intellectual weight and real world understanding to shaping and scaling what could be achieved and how.

He was willing to recognise and encourage new directions, not uncritically but out of a sense there might be value to be discovered, tested and, if it worked, adopted operationally. Thus, he played a key role in establishing the Global Environment Facility and saw in the Know How Fund the outline of new approaches which might respond to the tectonic shift in Central and Eastern Europe that resonated across three other continents.

Let's be mindful too that for Bob engagement with development and aid was not a hair-shirt occupation. The very opposite of the sandal wearing caricature, it merited rigour but could be enjoyable and fun too. As Martin Dinham observed, "beneath the inquisitorial demeanour and the scary intellect, Bob had a great sense of humour. He liked to keep it under wraps, perhaps lest people should think him frivolous. But it would peep out when you were least expecting it".

Alongside his Lancastrian directness, he was intellectually curious and open to new cultural experiences, taking full advantage of the many offerings on hand in London. After he retired, colleagues recall with pleasure walking and conversing with him on Hampstead Heath, his interest in development undiminished. He attended Alumni gatherings regularly, relishing and, in that more relaxed atmosphere, pleasing former colleagues by being no less penetrating in conversation. More recently, despite deteriorating health, his personality remained undimmed.

As you read this I hope you can conjure up images that bring memories of Bob to life—the raised eyebrow; the glasses pushed up on his forehead as he looked up from a paper or file; the walk along a corridor, knees angled slightly outwards, often quick, at other times more of a stroll as if prolonging conversation with a colleague might yield a valuable insight; the look that Alex Sutherland saw told certain recalcitrant Under-Secretaries they would embrace managerial changes; and the now legendary quizzical smile that signalled "be prepared to explain" or "think about it".

A full valuation of Bob's contribution to British development policy and practice may have to await a new generation of scholars and, on some issues, expiry or further relaxation of the 30 Year Rule. In the meantime, we who were fortunate enough to be his colleagues can surely endorse two summaries from



Tim Lankester and Martin Dinham respectively:

"He had deep knowledge and understanding of development and of aid policy and systems; he was an excellent manager, at once sympathetic but at the same time demanding of individuals and of departments; he set high standards for project and programme management; he was exceptionally disciplined and well organised; he had a phenomenal work rate; and his judgement was exceptionally sound... In the history of ODA/DFID Bob deserves to be remembered amongst the very best—for his superlative qualities and tremendous contribution and for being an exceptionally nice man".

"We all owe Bob big-time"

Sad news: Liam Docherty

Liam, who was from East Kilbride, died in June. He worked with DFID from 1989 to 2014 in various departments and overseas offices, including Bosnia, Montserrat, Bangkok, Manila, Dhaka and Kabul.

Jackie Creighton remembers: *Liam was larger than life with a fantastic sense of humour - irreverent and caustic.*

Alistair Fernie said: *Loved working with Liam in Dhaka. Such a blend of idealism and cynicism - got things done because he cared about it, always the sarcastic aside because he knew the world should be a bit better. At his best when investing in local staff, who he really cared about. A good man gone too young. But he packed more into his short years than many who live longer*

His funeral will be on 9th July at 9.30 am at St. Benedict's, Drumchapel Road, Glasgow G15 6QE, then to Clydebank crematorium. There is also a funeral reception at 6 pm the night before at St Benedict's.

Remembering Judith Hart

Peter Freeman

A new book “Labour Women in Power: Cabinet Ministers in the Twentieth Century” by Paula Bartlett tells the story of the only five women in Labour Cabinets before Tony Blair doubled the number in 1997 and the largely male world in which they functioned. Barbara Castle (the first Minister of Overseas Development in 1964) and Judith Hart (as Paymaster General in 1968) became the first to sit in Cabinet at the same time.

Judith first became Minister of Overseas Development in October 1969. Eight months later Labour lost the election. After four years as shadow Minister she returned in February 1974, but after fifteen months she backed the losing side in the European referendum and (after a dramatic week of political infighting) she found herself on the back benches. She returned again as Minister between 1977 and 1979.

While much has been written by and about Barbara Castle, the two chapters on Judith Hart are the first researched account of her life. Judith’s papers preserved in the People’s History Museum in Manchester record her very active public life as a busy constituency MP, representing Lanark and then Clydesdale for 28 years; as a member of the Labour Party’s National Executive – she chaired a chaotic and divisive party conference in 1981 – fully engaged in every aspect of policy formation; and as an energetic correspondent with individuals and organisations internationally and in the UK about overseas development - including the preparations for “Aid and Liberation”, the book she published in 1972 while she was shadow Minister.

Judith was a passionate and committed MP and Minister. She inspired strong feelings, even among civil servants. Paula quotes poems and letters, some of them slipped into her Ministerial red boxes, from her first Private Secretary. He was sent home from India after his infatuation got out of hand but fifty years later it seems extraordinary that he wasn’t sacked for harassment. In a pre-internet age letters of abuse from the public, sometimes couched in sexist terms or written in green ink, arrived regularly in her constituency and Ministerial offices.

Paula writes that there was a divided response in the civil service on Judith’s return in 1974. I remember her arriving at Eland House waving an action list written in the taxi on the way from 10 Downing Street, the first item being to cut off aid to Chile where Augusto Pinochet had staged a violent coup five months earlier.

She inherited Peter McLean as her Private Secretary with me as his assistant, and was reunited with Maggie Sidgreaves. Maggie had been Judith’s diary secretary at the Commonwealth Relations Office in the mid-sixties, moved with her to ODA in 1969, stayed there until 1975 then returned as Judith’s Special Adviser for 1977-79. Paula interviewed each of us.

Over the next fifteen months Judith led us on a dramatic and exhausting rollercoaster ride, working in an atmosphere infused with Senior Service cigarettes and a steady flow of Muscadet. She was the only non-Cabinet Minister in charge of a Department, excluded at least partly because MI5 had told the Prime Minister she had communist sympathies. After she protested it became clear they had confused her with a Judith Tudor Hart who regularly visited Moscow.

In the highly-charged atmosphere of a minority Labour government she was reprimanded more than once by Harold Wilson for interfering outside her Ministerial area, particularly on anything that affected UK relations with Chile. The recent BBC documentary “Nae Pasaran”, now available on DVD, includes clips of her supporting the blacking by workers of repairs to Chilean Air Force engines at a Rolls-Royce factory near East Kilbride.

In a Judith Hart memorial lecture in 2009 (one of a series held in Scotland by the Labour Campaign for International development) Harriet Harman described her ‘as a woman ahead of her time in combining her commitment to politics with her commitment to her family; a formidable fighter for socialism, for democracy and for International Development.’

Her legacies include the DFID presence in Scotland and the commitment she secured in 1974 from a very reluctant Chancellor of the Exchequer (Denis Healey) to accept the 0.7% target for official development aid. It took a long time to get there, but are there any other spending targets that Governments still acknowledge 45 years after they were first made?

Farewell from your editor

Marc Taylor

When I was Secretary of the DFID Alumni Association in 2013 to 2015, I never expected to edit The Four Corners for over six years.

Gathering material for your newsletter has been such an enjoyable way of keeping in touch with changes in DFID and with the extraordinarily varied interests of alumni all around the world!

But this edition is my 25th. It's time to move on. Following my 69th birthday, and with my fourth and fifth grandchildren on the way, I shall focus my energy on the interests I have pursued since I retired from the Department of Health in 2011.

Since 2012, I have chaired [ISRCTN](#), the UK-based international registry of clinical trials and related research. It actively supports the worldwide campaign to improve public reporting of health research and its findings. See the box below.

In 2006, I helped to found the [UK Research Integrity Office](#), which is a significant part of the research landscape thanks to the chairmanship

first of Sir Ian Kennedy and then of Sir Bernard Silverman. As its Vice Chair, I want to support the next chair as he takes up his appointment.

At the [Health Research Authority](#), I am a member of the statutory [Confidentiality Advisory Group](#). It scrutinises applications to use confidential patient information without consent. I also sit on the HRA's audit and risk committee. In York, where I live for part of the week, I am a trustee of [MySight York](#), the charity for blind and partially sighted people in and around York.

These commitments developed long after I left DFID. I worked for the then ODA from 1980 to 1991. I was desk officer for the Zimbabwe programme when it still seemed possible to rebuild the country; and I led the development section in India in 1986 to 1989.

I transferred to the Department of Health in 1991 from DFID's Finance Department to take on a series of health finance policy reviews. And there began my driving interest in correcting the weak organisation and funding which so inhibited health and social care research in the NHS. I left my job as finance director of the NHS buildings agency in 2000 for the Department of Health's research department. There followed a fascinating decade when I worked for several chief medical officers and DH directors of research to create effective structures and governance for health and social care research in the NHS.

Among other things, our little team set up the National Institute for Health Research, the Health Research Authority and the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (now operated by the UK's MHRA). Our policy work and political persuasion led to the recruitment of 500,000 volunteers who share their health information with researchers anonymously through UK Biobank; and we helped establish the international network of clinical trial registries now coordinated by the World Health Organization.

I shall always be grateful to my colleagues at ODA and DFID for the international perspective and spirit of collaboration which motivated me to step outside the NHS frame, to focus on strengthening the unique advantages and networks that underpin the remarkable achievements of British health science.

No-one should take the UK's international reputation for granted. It is a struggle to make time for research in the NHS because the UK trains too few health professionals to staff the NHS properly; and as for its annual output of science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates per capita, the UK now lags far behind Iran, Russia, China and India.

What should DFID do to promote open access to the health science it funds?

- *In 2015 members of the World Health Organization agreed a declaration on the registration and timely public reporting of clinical trials.*
- *In 2017, DFID was one of 27 funders of health research signing a WHO joint statement committing each of them to publish its policy on timely registration and reporting of clinical trials.*
- *In the UK, the Wellcome Trust, the Medical Research Council and (recently) the Department of Health's NIHR all published their policies on open access.*
- **DFID hasn't updated its policy since 2013.**
- **Search www.isrctn.com for 40 studies funded by DFID or Department for International Development.**
- **See how few have reported any results to the UK's primary clinical trials registry ISRCTN.**
- **Then search for these clinical trials on [DFID's R4D outputs](#). Where are they?**

Read more in [my guest blog on Transparimed](#) about the need for a united front among funders of health research in the UK and worldwide to bring about full public reporting of the evidence from research.

Committee members

Simon Ray *resigned as Chair 17 June 2019*
John Burton **(Treasurer)**
Isobel Doig *re-elected 17 June 2019*
Jim Drummond
Janet Grimshaw
Pauline Hayes *elected 17 June 2019*
Pam Jenkins
Jan Ketelaar
Kathy Marshall
John Stuppel **(Secretary)**
Marc Taylor *resigned as Editor 17 June 2019*

New Members of the Association

We welcome our new members who joined the DFID Alumni in April to June 2019.

Melissa Batt

Sam Rose

Amir Kirolos

Keith Thompson.

June committee meeting and AGM

The Alumni Association Committee met on 17 June, before the Annual General Meeting. Simon Ray, as Chair, and Marc Taylor, as Editor of Four Corners, stood down, but will remain on the Committee. Replacements are urgently sought, so if interested in one of these roles do get in touch. Isobel Doig and Pauline Hayes were duly elected to the Committee.

Discussions have been established with DFID's IT contacts to help us make better use of the Dgroups database.

Current balance of accounts is £4,511, but after costs for the Summer Gathering we are likely to have reduced funding. Current sponsorship comes from Oxford HR, with the possibility of further funding coming from St. James's Place Financial Management, plus members' donations.

The Permanent Secretary opened the AGM with an outline current DFID activities and priorities, followed by a question and answer session and reiterated the importance of the DFID Alumni Association in keeping links between DFID and its former employees.

Membership continues to grow, particularly from overseas staff, and we currently have over 800 members. Some thought will be given how we can better engage members located outside the London/SE Region of England, particularly overseas members.

The Christmas Gathering is likely to be at the Rubens Hotel in early December. Dates for the 2020 AGM will be advised later, but once again likely to be in June/July.

Members can find previous editions of this newsletter at dgroups.org and on the [DFID Alumni Association web site](http://www.dfid-alumni.org).

The Four Corners has appeared quarterly since 2007. Members of the DFID Alumni Association can download any of the previous editions – and other documents - from the DFID Alumni [Library on dgroups](https://dgroups.org).

Dgroups (at <https://dgroups.org>) hosts a private on-line resource for our members. Members can request a password, or ask for a new password, [here](#).

Editions of The Four Corners since December 2013 are available for anyone - member or not - to download from the Association's web site at www.dfid-alumni.org.

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Follow us on Twitter: [@DFID_Alumni](https://twitter.com/DFID_Alumni)

Our Facebook page is [@dfidaa](https://www.facebook.com/dfidaa).

PM called on G20 leaders to step up the fight against deadly diseases

Theresa May called on leaders of the world's largest economies to follow the UK in providing the funding that is urgently needed to fight AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. At the G20 Summit in Osaka the Prime Minister announced new UK support to the Global Fund to help the organisation save 16 million lives, prevent millions more people becoming infected, and drive forward efforts to tackle these deadly epidemics.

Averaging £467 million a year, the UK's new three-year funding pledge will help the Global Fund provide medication for over 3 million people living with HIV, treatment and care for over 2 million people suffering from tuberculosis, and 90 million mosquito nets to protect children and families from malaria. Since 2002, the Global Fund has helped save more than 27 million lives and reduced deaths from three infectious diseases - AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria - by more than a third in the countries which it invests in.

The UK's new three-year funding pledge, will help:

- provide life-saving antiretroviral therapy to more than 3.3 million people with HIV;
- provide TB treatment and care for 2.3 million people;
- provide 120,000 people with treatment for multidrug-resistant TB;
- distribute 92 million mosquito nets to protect children and families from malaria; and
- strengthen health systems and promote global health security.

International Development Secretary, Rory Stewart said:

We're deeply proud of our efforts with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, but far too many people still die from these diseases.

We're going to continue to invest in controlling and ultimately ending these diseases, and we will be making sure other countries contribute generously. These diseases cross borders. Therefore, our support is something that helps the poorest people in the world, but is also something that keeps us safe here at home. British expertise is at the heart of global efforts to tackle AIDS, TB and malaria.

On 28 June Rory Stewart visited ViiV Healthcare in Hertfordshire – a UK business at the heart of tackling one of these diseases. ViiV Healthcare has developed a new antiretroviral drug to treat HIV and is voluntarily licencing it. This means the Global Fund can negotiate lower prices and supply the drug in large volumes to developing countries, improving the lives of children and adults living with HIV.

The UK's investment is crucial as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria continue to blight the lives of people and communities around the world:

- in 2017 more than 2.5 million people died from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;
- every day nearly 1,000 adolescent girls and young women across Africa become infected with HIV;
- TB is now the leading cause of death from an infectious disease; and
- a child still dies of malaria every two minutes.

Through the new pledge, the UK government will encourage stronger private sector engagement in the fight against malaria by doubling the value of up to £100 million of investment from private sector organisations. The British government is determined to spend aid where it is most needed and deliver the best value for money. As part of the new funding agreement, the UK will set out performance expectations around key priorities such as:

- improving health systems;
- preventing new infections;
- helping the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised, including women and girls; and
- tackling antimicrobial resistance.

International Development Secretary's oral statement to Parliament on the Ebola crisis in DR Congo

On 20 May, Secretary of State for International Development, Rory Stewart, updated Parliament on the Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the UK's response.

He said,

Ebola is back, this time in the eastern DRC. It is the largest outbreak in the country's history, the second largest in the world, and the first in a conflict zone. So far 1,209 people have died. And we must do much more to grip this situation.

This is not a simple question of virus control. If it were we could simply repeat what we were able – at huge risk and cost – to do in Sierra Leone and Liberia – and even to some extent what the government of the DRC and the WHO were able to do in Equateur and western DRC in the first six months of last year, that is to get out into village after village, identifying all the cases, tracing all their contacts and the contacts of the contacts – and through preventing further chains of transmission, contain the outbreak.

But, this is not a situation like this, this is North Kivu, this is the centre of a conflict, dominated by dozens of separate armed groups, largely outside government control. Such groups have begun to attack and kill health-workers – meaning that key international experts have had to be withdrawn from the epicentre of the virus. And the decision not to allow this area to participate in the recent election partly on the grounds that it is an Ebola area has fuelled suspicions that Ebola is a fabrication developed by hostile political forces.

As a result, Mr Speaker, communities are reluctant to come forward when they have symptoms, they're reluctant to change burial practices or accept the highly effective trial vaccine. The Congolese army and government – which have successfully contained nine previous outbreaks over the last 45 years – is struggling to operate in the epicentre of this outbreak. And so too are the UN peace-keepers and the WHO. And although this

area is very dangerous and difficult to access, it is not sparsely populated. The epicentre of the outbreak is Butembo, which has a population of a million people. The surrounding areas contain almost 18 million people.

Now to be clear, the current disease profile poses – according to all our expert analysis here – at the moment only a low to negligible risk to the United Kingdom. So this statement should not be a cause for panic at home. But this outbreak is potentially devastating for the region. It could spread easily to neighbouring provinces and even to neighbouring countries.

Now I want to take a moment to commend all of those – both the Congolese Government and the international community – who are working in these very difficult situations to bring this disease under control. My predecessor, the Right Honourable member for Portsmouth North paid tribute to Dr Richard Valery Mouzoko Kiboung who was killed in an attack by an armed group on the 19th of April while working for WHO in the Ebola response on the frontline. I would like to, and I imagine the whole House would join with me in expressing deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Dr Richard and to all those who have lost loved ones as a result of this outbreak.

We now need to grip this situation and ensure that the disease is contained. As you can imagine, this has been my key priority in the emergency field since I was appointed just over two weeks ago. I spent the weekend in discussions with Sir Mark Lowcock, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, and with the Director-General of the WHO, Dr. Tedros, who has so far paid eight visits personally to the affected area.

I have also spoken about the response to the Deputy-Secretary-General of the UN, Amina Mohammed, and I am pleased to see that there has been a real step up in terms of the UN staff on the ground, in terms of coordination and in terms of the seniority of those staff, particularly in places like Butembo.

Both the Health Secretary and the Foreign Secretary have been supporting this agenda in recent meetings over the last four days, at the G7 health

meeting and the WHO meetings in Geneva. I have also convened a meeting with a number of international experts in the field, including Brigadier Kevin Beaton, who helped to lead to the UK military response in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and the chief medical officer to the UK government.

I have concluded, on the basis of their advice, that we need not only to provide more money immediately to support the frontline response, that's the health workers, but also to support the vaccination strategy and to put more of our expert staff on the ground, into the response. This is not just about recruiting doctors – we need people who understand and can work with the DRC government, the military and even the opposition forces – in order to create the space for us to work. We need people who know the UN system well so that they can drive and shape the UN response. And these people need to be not in London but on the ground because they need to be able to learn and adapt very quickly as the disease spreads.

We are already deploying epidemiologists through our Public Health Rapid Support Teams, in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care. I am also considering deploying officials with specialities in information management, adaptive management, anthropology and strategic communications. It is, however, important for us all to understand that this is not a problem that the international community can solve from a distance. This is a political and security crisis as much as a health crisis – and the response must, in the end, be driven by local health-workers and leaders.^[1]

But there are some positive signs. DFID has been a key player in developing a new experimental vaccine for Ebola, which is proving highly effective. Over 119 thousand doses have been administered in eastern DRC. This is an achievement that has probably saved thousands of lives. Modelling from Yale suggests that the use of the vaccine has reduced the geographic spread of Ebola by nearly 70%. And this isn't just about statistics – this is about Danielle, a 42-day old baby in eastern Congo who survived Ebola last week thanks to the inspiring work of community volunteers,

themselves Ebola survivors, and frontline health workers, supported by UK aid.

And of course we cannot do it alone. This needs grip and urgency – but it also needs humility. Eastern DRC is one of the most difficult operating environments on earth. One of the reasons that I have been talking to in detail about this issue to Mark Green, who is my US opposite number – is not only that we share the US analysis but also that the Americans will inevitably be major players in this response – in terms of finance and in terms of expertise, as indeed they were in the Liberia Ebola outbreak.

We need many more international donors to match our financial contributions and to sustain the international and local health operations in the field. And this is why the UK has just hosted an event specifically on Ebola, to build support for the response in the World Health Assembly in Geneva. This is also why I have agreed that my colleague the Africa Minister, should visit Eastern DRC immediately.

To conclude, this is a very dangerous situation, where the Ebola virus is only one ingredient in a crisis which is fuelled by politics, community suspicion and armed violence.

We need to act fast, and we need to act generously. But above all we need the right people on the ground who are completely on top of the situation, who are able to come up with quick solutions, and guide us in keeping up the support and yes, sometimes the pressure, on the UN system, on NGOs, on opposition politicians, and the government of DRC to get this done.

The stakes are very high. I will keep the house updated on our response.

DFID Accountable Grant Arrangement: budget template and guidance

The Department for International Development (DFID) has developed a new [standard budget template](#), which is available for use in new Accountable Grant Arrangements from June 2019.

It builds upon the overhead costs template (also known as Non Project Attributable Costs, or NPAC), which was launched in October 2018. The approach to overhead costs is the same in this template, and it adds a standard format for capturing direct costs. See the [guidance](#).

DFID is making this change as part of a series of measures to increase transparency on how UK aid is spent. DFID remains committed to delivering the best value for money in its programmes, which includes supporting sustainability of the projects and organisations it funds.

The template is intended to provide a fair, consistent approach that will enable payment for the full cost of programme delivery through grants.

The new template calculates the full costs that DFID should pay grantees, including overheads.

The amount payable will be calculated and agreed between DFID and the partner using the new template.

If you are from a civil society organisation, interested in using the template for a new accountable grant arrangement, please discuss it with your DFID Programme Manager.