

**Evaluation Report Title:  
Evaluation of FCDO's support to the Construction Industry Transparency Initiative**

Response to Evaluation Report (overarching narrative)

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) welcomes the independent evaluation of the Construction Industry Transparency Initiative, conducted by Mokoro Ltd.

Our objective for commissioning this evaluation was to assess CoST's performance during 2021–2025, consider its value for money, and provide recommendations to inform its future strategy and strengthen its sustainability.

It is a rigorous evaluation which included over 80 interviews and survey responses from over 100 stakeholders. There is transparent discussion of limitations and strength of evidence and it was rated by EQUALS as Excellent, meaning the report is comprehensive and of a high standard.

The UK has supported CoST to tackle the increased business costs created by corruption; up to 30% of investment in infrastructure is lost due to poor governance and corruption. The UK believes addressing this problem is an essential part of filling the infrastructure finance gap

We were pleased the evaluation confirmed the continuing relevance of CoST to the needs of stakeholders, especially its global and local operating model. It allows its work to be tailored and adjusted to the local context, that has enabled local partners to establish member programmes. It complements other transparency initiatives. The evaluation found the model to have contributed to institutional changes in data transparency and accountability in member states where the political context allowed. Given the known scale of lost capital in the infrastructure sector due to lack of transparency, the gains show CoST represents good value for money. It has supported 19 members in 16 countries, contributing to savings in specific projects, relative to its budget.

The funding environment has changed significantly in recent years, creating challenges for the implementation and sustainability of CoST. We note the constructive recommendations in the report for CoST to adjust to this changing global context, notably to diversify its strategic partnerships. FCDO is willing to support CoST to build these relationships.

We acknowledge the recommendation to FCDO to continue to invest in CoST and to provide a predictable funding settlement to CoST.