

“Accountability – perspective from the UK”

Sam Sharpe, 15 December 2009



Accountability in the UK system

- DFID is the focus of accountability
- DFID is accountable
 - to Parliament,
 - to the centre of government
 - to interested stakeholders
 - to other donors
 - to partner countries



What is DFID accountable for?

- Poverty reduction and MDGs
 - Legislation
 - 2002 International Development Act
 - 2006 International Development (Transparency and Reporting) Act
 - Commitment to legislate for 0.7%
 - Cross-party commitment
 - Stakeholder interest

- <http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Player.aspx?meetingId=5260>



Innovations in formal accountability

- Legislation
- International Development Committee
- Centre of government (Public Service Agreement, Treasury spending settlement, Capability Reviews)
- Accountability for international commitments (G8, Paris etc)
- Evaluation and Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact



Innovations in informal accountability

- Civil society monitoring of international commitments
- Stronger public communications, research on public attitudes, introduction of new “UKAid” brand
- Transparency, IATI etc



Implications of greater accountability

- Thematic spending targets, and White Paper “we will” commitments.
- Drive for attributable results

Challenge is to operate these in ways compatible with country-led development, and Paris Declaration

