

OPERATIONAL SELECTION POLICY OSP 49

Records of the Export Credits Guarantee Department 1978 onwards

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Document Authority

The National Archives Acquisition and Disposition policy statements published in 2000 (revised and updated in 2007 as the [Acquisition and Disposition Strategy](#)) announced the intention of developing, in consultation with departments, operational selection policies (OSPs) across government. These policies would apply the collection themes described in the policy to the records of individual departments and agencies.

OSPs are intended to be working tools for those involved in the selection of public records. Therefore we may review and revise this policy in the light of comments received from the users of records or from archive professionals, the department's experience of using the policy, or as a result of newly discovered information.

This policy is a presentation version of an appraisal report. We have developed appraisal reports to implement [The National Archives' appraisal policy](#) (August 2004). They are designed to provide structured information about the responsibilities, work and records of an organisation so that appraisers can identify records of potential historical value. They provide a transparent record of decisions on the selection of records, in whatever format, for permanent preservation. Selection decisions are based on the requirement both to document the work of the organisation and to provide information about specific topics of potential long-term interest.

If you have any comments on this policy, please email information.management@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Contents

1 Executive summary	3
Section 1: Background information	6
Section 2: Material transferred to The National Archives in the past.....	13
Section 3: Analysis of records produced	14
Section 4: Records to be selected for The National Archives	26
Section 5: Additional information and follow-up	27

1 Executive summary

Historical value of records

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is the UK's national export credit agency. It supports British exports by providing insurance to exporters against not receiving payment from their overseas buyers and by providing guarantees to banks in respect of loans made to overseas borrowers in order to assist the purchase of UK goods and services. ECGD also insures UK investors in overseas enterprises against loss caused by the occurrence of political risks and reinsures export credit agencies in other countries which provide support for UK exports.

ECGD reports to the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills but is an independent government department which derives its powers from the [Export and Investment Guarantee Act 1991](#). ECGD exercises its statutory powers in accordance with the financial objectives set by HM Treasury the policies set for it by the Government and international agreements which relate to the activities of national export credit agencies.

The historical value of ECGD's records lies in the fact that:

- they record the development of ECGD as an organisation, in particular over the period between 1991 and the present when various options were considered for ECGD's future and ECGD underwent significant organisational change
- they detail the development of ECGD's policies and products in relation to the promotion of UK exports and overseas investments as well as in relation to matters such as combating corruption in export transactions and protecting the environment
- they detail ECGD's support for, and the effect of its involvement in the financing of, specific UK projects overseas
- they describe ECGD's contribution to the UK's economy by supporting British exports and investments overseas. (Although ECGD works specifically with only a small sector of the population nevertheless its work can have an impact on particular sectors of the economy and therefore on the prosperity of the UK)

The relevance of the Acquisition Criteria

The work of ECGD falls within two themes of the Acquisition Criteria:

- 3.1 Policy and administrative processes of the State: the formulation of policy and its execution
- 3.1.4 Regulation and support of economic activity by government, including industry, services, agriculture, transport, energy, trade and employment and productivity

The records of ECGD are likely to have research value for the following reasons:

- history of government's relationship with, and support for, exporters and business
- history and development of government's policy on sustainable development and the impact of climate change issues

The records for selection for permanent preservation will be those policy records which document how ECGD functions, whether its functions should remain in the public sector, how it was organised, how some of its policies were developed, its relationship with its statutory advisory body and, through a selection of its case files, evidence of how it fulfilled its statutory duties.

The records of the Management Board will be selected; it is the forum where the strategic issues facing ECGD are debated and the performance objectives and framework for the organisation are agreed.

During the period of the report there has been significant consideration of the existence, remit, value, structure, policies and rules of ECGD. Management, policy and project records relating to these reviews will also be selected.

The records of the Export Guarantees Advisory Council (EGAC) will be selected. The EGAC is a statutory body that, since 1991, advises the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and

Skills on matters relating to the exercise of his functions under the [Export and Investment Guarantees Act 1991](#) (as amended by the [Industry and Exports \(Financial Support\) Act 2009](#))¹.

Most of ECGD's operational work is routine but there are some projects which ECGD is asked to support which may be controversial because, for example, they involve potentially high environmental and social impacts.

Such cases involve lengthy consideration of issues and can generate parliamentary and media interest. International agreements² establish the criteria by which ECGD and other export credit agencies assess projects involving high potential environmental impacts. Such projects are notified publicly on ECGD's website. Case files which meet the criterion of having a High Potential Impact will be selected.

¹ Full Terms of Reference for the EGAC - as well as for the Department's Management Board and Executive Committee - are available from ECGD's website: www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk/

² particularly the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Recommendation on common approaches on the environment and officially supported export credits

Section 1: Background information

1.1 Name of Department

Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD)

1.2 Type of organisation

ECGD is a central government department established by statute which reports to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

1.3 Annual budget

ECGD supports a wide range of exports and investments, issuing guarantees and insurance policies for which ECGD charges premiums, the amount of which is informed by a policy of pricing to risk, including recovery of operational costs, and an OECD agreement which has established minimum rates to be charged by official export credit agencies.

ECGD aims to operate at no cost to the Exchequer. Ministers have periodically issued assurances to Parliament that ECGD is required to break even over the long term.

ECGD's Annual Review and Resource Accounts are available from [the Department's website](#).

1.4 Number of employees

As at October 2010 ECGD's headcount was 205 full time equivalent (FTE) staff.

1.5 Records

ECGD does not currently have an electronic document and records management system and they hold electronic records on a shared drive. There is some variation in the file/folder structure between divisions within the department therefore ECGD has a 'print to paper' policy for its records. For the purpose of this appraisal report select the paper records.

1.6 Background, functions and activities

ECGD was established in 1919 in order to help to re-establish international trade following the First World War. Its existence was regularised by the Overseas Trade (Credit and Insurance) Act 1920. The act gave the Board of Trade power to make arrangements for granting credits to UK persons and companies for exports to overseas parties to a limited number of countries listed in the schedule to the act.

The Export Guarantees Act 1937 amended and consolidated the Overseas Trade Acts 1920 - 1934 and provided similar cover to the 1920 act.

The Export Guarantees Act 1939 granted additional powers to ECGD for providing guarantees which were in the national interest and for the purpose of arranging economic assistance to countries outside the UK and established the Export Guarantees Advisory Council.

The Overseas Investment and Export Guarantees Act 1972 authorised the Secretary of State to insure UK investors in overseas enterprises against loss arising from war, expropriation, restrictions and remittances and similar risks.

The [Export Guarantees and Overseas Investment Act 1978](#) consolidated all the previous acts and distinguished between export guarantees which were to be provided for the purpose of encouraging trade with other countries and were in connection with the export manufacture, treatment or distribution of goods and the rendering of services and guarantees and other arrangements in the national interest.

The [Export and Investment Guarantees Act 1991](#) (the EIGA) made changes to the purposes for which ECGD could exercise its statutory powers. Rather than empowering ECGD to enter into arrangements for the encouragement of trade with other countries or which were in the national interest, the EIGA permits ECGD to enter into arrangements to facilitate, directly or indirectly, supplies by persons carrying on businesses in the UK of goods and services to persons outside the UK.

It also permitted ECGD to make arrangements which, in its opinion, are in the interests of the proper financial management of its portfolio.

Part 2 of the EIGA permits the Secretary of State to transfer or delegate ECGD's functions and enabled ECGD's short-term credit insurance business (known as the Insurance Services Group) to be privatised by its sale to NCM (UK), now known as Atradius, in 1991.

The [Industry and Exports \(Financial Support\) Act 2009](#) made an amendment to s 1(1) of the EIGA in order to recognise a change that had taken place over a number of years in international contracting where, increasingly, project sponsors placed business with UK exporters and paid them in cash or from short-term borrowing before then seeking refinancing under an export credit loan.

ECGD had difficulty in finding the statutory power to provide support for such refinancing loans because, as the goods and services in question had been supplied, ECGD's support could no longer facilitate their supply for the purposes of s 1(1) of the EIGA.

The amendment addressed this problem by replacing the requirement in s 1(1) of the EIGA for ECGD's support to facilitate exports by a requirement for it to be entered into 'in connection with' UK exports from the UK, even if those exports had already taken place.

ECGD's main functions are now to:

- provide insurance to exporters of capital equipment and project related goods and services against non-payment by overseas buyers
- guarantee loans by banks to overseas borrowers to assist the purchase of goods and services from suppliers in the UK
- provide insurance to UK investors against loss arising from political risks in relation to investments in overseas enterprises

ECGD's current products are either:

- financial guarantees (buyer credit facilities, supplier credit financing facilities or lines of credit)
- policies of insurance (the export insurance policy, bond insurance policy and overseas investment insurance policy)

In 2005, ECGD began a process of moving towards becoming a government trading fund under the [Government Trading Funds Act 1973](#). A notionally capitalised trading fund was introduced in April 2005 with a view to full trading fund status being achieved in April 2007, which was then extended to April 2008.

Subsequently, Ministers decided that, ECGD would not become a trading fund but, from April 2008, would operate under a new financial framework agreed with HM Treasury.

In 2009 ECGD launched a Letter of Credit Guarantee Scheme to assist UK exporters during the global downturn.

The scheme was designed to increase the availability of short-term export finance by giving guarantees to UK banks who confirmed letters of credit issued by overseas banks in favour of UK exporters in order to protect those UK banks against non-payment by the overseas issuers. The scheme was intended to operate until March 2011.

Also, in 2009, ECGD launched a public consultation on proposed changes to its Business Principles and ancillary policies and published a review of its anti-bribery procedures with the consultation document.

The outcome was that the Government decided to make changes to ECGD's Business Principles. This included adopting a policy of following international agreements when considering the environmental, social and human rights aspects of projects and exports for which ECGD's support is requested rather than operating its own separate or additional policies.

1.7 Name of parent or sponsoring department. If none, Minister who lays an annual report before Parliament

ECGD is a separate government department and therefore does not have a parent department.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills lays ECGD's annual report and accounts before Parliament.

1.8 Relationship with other departments

BIS

The Chief Executive of ECGD reports to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and President of the Board of Trade and the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs. There is regular contact with those parts of BIS that interface with the work of ECGD.

Shareholder Executive

The Shareholder Executive was created in September 2003 to make fundamental improvements in the government's performance as a shareholder in government-owned businesses and to provide a source of corporate finance expertise within government. It advises ECGD and Ministers on a wide range of shareholder issues such as objectives, governance, strategy, performance monitoring, board appointments and remuneration.

HM Treasury

ECGD may only exercise its powers under the [Export and Investment Guarantees Act 1991](#), with the consent of HM Treasury.

HM Treasury gives this consent by means of a consent document covering all ECGD's activities. This consent is linked to a financial framework document agreed between ECGD and HM Treasury which requires ECGD, when conducting its activities, to meet certain financial objectives and to provide regular reports to HM Treasury on the extent to which these objectives are achieved. To date, the consent document and financial framework document have been reviewed and revised annually. ECGD works closely with HM Treasury in building a strong international consensus for improvements to the official export credit system and in respect of UK debt policy through the UK's participation in the Paris Club of Official Creditors.

1.9 Relationship with other agencies/NDPBs/NGOs

The Export Guarantees Advisory Council

The first Council was established under the Export Guarantees Act 1939 to give advice relating to general policy matters in respect of specific markets, as well as all business

operations. Under the [Export and Investment Guarantees Act 1991](#) its successor, of the same name, has the remit to give independent advice to the Secretary of State on any matter relating to the exercise of his functions under the act.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills appoints members in accordance with rules set by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). Full terms of reference are available on [ECGD's website](#).

In practice, the focus of the work of the Council is to give advice on the application of ECGD's ethical policies related to bribery and corruption, sustainable lending, the environmental, and social and human rights impacts of the projects it is asked to support and transparency (Freedom on Information).

International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers - Berne Union

ECGD was a founder member of the Berne Union in 1934. The main role of Berne Union is to facilitate cross-border trade by supporting international acceptance of sound principles in export credits and foreign investment, and to provide a forum for professional exchanges amongst its members.

The Paris Club

The Paris Club is an informal group of official creditors whose role is to find co-ordinated and sustainable solutions to the payment difficulties experienced by debtor nations and to avoid defaults on loans made by debtors. It is composed of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) governments, of which the UK is one. The UK is represented by HM Treasury and ECGD.

Although the Paris Club has no legal basis or status it provides a forum in which creditor countries can agree the basis on which the debts of a debtor country should be rescheduled after that country has approached the Paris Club.

Rescheduling is a means of providing a debtor country with debt relief through a postponement (and, in the case of concessional rescheduling, a reduction in) its debt service obligations.

Special Interest Groups

ECGD engages with a number of such organisations (which have an active interest in the Department's work) in particular when consulting publicly on changes proposed to its services and operations.

A number of civil society organisations monitor ECGD's activities and respond to public consultations. These include Amnesty, The Corner House, Campaign Against Arms Trade, WWF-UK and Jubilee Debt Campaign.

As well as individual customers, ECGD engages with trade associations. The main such groups are: the British Exporters Association (BExA), an independent national trade association representing the interests the export community; the British Bankers Association (BBA), representing the interests of all banks operating in the UK, and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), a lobby organisation that promotes the interests of UK business. These organisations are broadly supportive of ECGD's role and their members are among ECGD's customer base.

Section 2: Material transferred to The National Archives in the past

The records at The National Archives date from ECGD's establishment:

- ECG 1 Minutes and papers of the Export Credit Committee, the Export Credit Advisory Committee, the Export Credit Guarantee Advisory Committee and Export Guarantee Advisory Council - all external advisory bodies to ECGD
- ECG 2 Minutes of ECGD's Executive Committee
- ECG 3 Papers of sub-committees of the Export Credit Advisory Council and Export Guarantees Council
- ECG 4 Miscellanea
- ECG 5 Records from the Secretariat, later the Chief Executive's Office: policy files selected to illustrate the development of the organisation, legislative changes, the introduction of schemes and loan agreements, departmental reviews, relations with the Berne Union, precedent cases, some case files concerned with the departments involvement in major overseas projects and papers of the Export Guarantee Committee
- ECG 6 Specimen forms.
No records transferred - series closed
- ECG 7 Treasury Delegated Authorities: Copy Letters.
No records transferred - series closed
- ECG 8 Transferred to ECG 5
- ECG 9 Minutes of the Comprehensive Group Board and the Insurance Services Board up to the point of the privatisation of the Group and its transfer to NCM (UK) in 1991
- ECG 10 Copies of published Trading Accounts which later formed part of the Annual Report.
No further reports will be added to this series ([OSP 36 Publications/Grey literature](#))

Section 3: Analysis of records produced

3.1 Committee structure within the department, including statutory committees directing the work of the organisation but independent of the department (Table 3. 1: Key committees)

Name of committee	Terms of reference ³	Appraisal hypothesis	Check of quality of information	Series
<p>Export Guarantee Advisory Council 1939-1991</p> <p>Export Guarantees Advisory Council from 1991</p>	<p>Provides advice on general policy, specific markets and business operations</p> <p>The Export Guarantees Advisory Council ('the Council') has been established under s 13 of the Export and Investment Guarantees Act 1991 (as amended by the Industry and Exports (Financial Support) Act 2009) ('the act'). Its statutory purpose is to give advice to the Secretary of State, at his request, in respect of any matter relating to the exercise of his functions under the act. In particular, the Secretary of State is required to consult the Council in exercising his duty under s 11(2) of the act (in relation to reinsurance)</p>	<p>Select - external body which advises on general policy and specific markets</p> <p>Select - external advisory body which advises on the operation of ECGD's business principles</p>	<p>Full agendas, minutes and papers</p>	<p>SEC 7034</p> <p>A 11</p>

³ Full Terms of Reference for the Export Guarantees Advisory Council, Management Board, and Executive Committee are available on ECGD's website: www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk/

<p>Management Board - MB - from 2002-2004⁴ (previously EGAC was more closely involved in operational matters)</p>	<p>The Management Board (MB) supports the Accounting Officer in the discharge of his responsibilities and has accountability to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) exercising oversight of the Chief Executive and the Executive Committee b) monitoring the application of the principles of good governance c) ensuring the strategic goals of ECGD are properly tested and examined d) advising on policies and strategies; providing advice on achieving policies set by Ministers e) monitoring performance; assessing and monitoring enterprise-wide risks f) recommending accounting policies and the Annual Review and Resource Accounts 	<p>Select - highest level of decision making in ECGD as it supports the CE in setting strategic and governance framework and overall performance, monitoring and management of ECGD</p>	<p>Full agendas, minutes and papers</p>	<p>SP3⁵</p>
<p>Executive Committee - EC</p>	<p>Executive Committee (EC) is responsible for advising the Chief Executive on the operational management of ECGD's business. It supports the Chief Executive in the discharge of his responsibility as the Accounting Officer for the overall organisation, performance and management of ECGD within the policy and resource framework set by Ministers and policies on which Management Board (MB) have provided advice</p>	<p>Not selected - provides advice to CE, makes decisions on operational activities.</p> <p>Important operational issues will be discussed by Management Board</p>		

⁴ Dates amended from '2003-2004' - March 2012. Amendment made in consultation with Export Credits Guarantee Department

⁵ Reference amended from 'G1' - March 2012. Amendment made in consultation with Export Credits Guarantee Department

<p>Audit Committee</p>	<p>The role of the Audit Committee is to assist and advise the Accounting Officer in relation to his responsibility for matters of financial reporting, including the production of annual Resource Accounts, and issues of risk, internal control, governance and associated assurance. The Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the Management Board</p>	<p>Not selected - decisions referred to Management Board</p>		
<p>Business Systems and Infrastructure Committee - BSIC</p>	<p>BSIC is responsible for ensuring that ECGD's investment in business systems, processes and infrastructure is well-targeted, well-managed, in accordance with strategies and policies and is expected to represent value for money</p>	<p>Not selected - operational committee Decisions referred to EC</p>		
<p>Risk Committee (RC) from October 2004. Work previously was the remit of the Market Committee (early 1990s – 2004)</p>	<p>RC is responsible for advising the Chief Executive on the effective management of ECGD's credit risk exposures at the case specific and portfolio level, and in accordance with policies set out in ECGD's Credit Risk Policy Statement (CRPS). RC is responsible also for ensuring that credit risks are properly monitored and controlled through ECGD's processes and systems</p>	<p>Not selected - operational committee considering risks at portfolio level See proposed selection criteria for case files</p>		
<p>Information Security Assurance Committee (ISAC)</p>	<p>ISAC is responsible for ensuring that the information required for ECGD's business operations, systems and processes are appropriately secured in accordance with ECGD's, legal, regulatory and central government requirements. It is a sub-committee of the Executive Committee</p>	<p>Not selected - operational committee Decisions referred to EC</p>		

3.2 Areas of policy work undertaken in the Department (Table 3.2: Policy work in the department)

Type of policy	Yes / No	Notes	Appraisal comments
Primary legislative (and related consultative documentation)	Yes	ECGD, working closely with colleagues from BIS and HMT, develops primary legislation affecting the statutory functions of the Department	Records to be selected from ECGD
Department represents the UK govt at international conferences/on European or International bodies	Yes	ECGD contributes to any collective Export Credit Agencies issues as the UK's representative on the OECD export credits committees and working parties, represents UK at Berne Union and Paris Club	Not selected - ECGD a contributor only - lead with international and other organisations
Secondary legislation (and related consultative documentation)	Yes	ECGD, working closely with colleagues from BIS and HMT, develops secondary legislation affecting the statutory functions of the Department	Records to be selected from ECGD
Department issues advice and guidance	Yes	Via Guidance Notes for UK exporters and banks	Not to be selected
Department develops nation-wide strategy documents (below White Paper status but above operational level)	No	ECGD develops policy which has an impact on a specialist audience (all export businesses) such as bribery and corruption, sustainable development. It undertakes consultations which may lead to policy and rule changes, for example support for foreign content	Select project files on reviews of policy, remit and role (see also significant policy issues below)

3.3 Operational work undertaken by the department (Table 3.3: Operational work of the department and records created)

Operational activity	Detail of activity	Type of record created	Is the work captured through a database?	Is the work captured through publications (see 6 below)	Do appeals go elsewhere (BIS? Independent panel? Where?)	Are key results captured in the Annual Report?	Appraisal hypothesis
Underwriting cases in response to applications	Yes	Case file and folder arranged by market for Paris Club cases and for guarantee business by project	ACBS system	No	n/a	Total payments and analysis by business sector	Although large sums of money can be involved most cases are routine and will not be selected. High Potential Impact Cases where potentially high social, environmental and development impacts are likely will be selected (see 5.1)
Handling claims	Yes	Case file and folder arranged by market	Treasury management, FREF, GEFCO claims databases	No	n/a	Total payments and analysis by business sector	Although large sums of money can be involved most cases are routine and will not be selected. High Potential Impact Cases where potentially high social, environmental and development impacts are likely will be selected (see 5.1)

Supporting finance and arranging insurance, re-insurance and guarantees against loss for UK businesses	Yes	Case file/folder arranged by project	Treasury management, FREF, GEFCO claims databases	No	n/a	Total payments and analysis by business sector. List of guarantees and insurance policies issued with maximum liability for each exporter/market	Although large sums of money can be involved most cases are routine and will not be selected. High Potential Impact Cases where potentially high social, environmental and development impacts are likely will be selected (see 5.1)
Providing, guidance, information and support	Yes	Booklets, brochures, pamphlets	No	Printed and on website	n/a	n/a	Not selected in line with OSP 36 Publications/Grey literature

3.4 Categories of electronic systems (Table 3.4 Categories of electronic systems)

System	Yes/No
Electronic Document and Records Management System	No
Enterprise Content Management System	No
Shared Drives	Yes
Personal drives	Yes
Collaboration systems	Yes (Sharepoint)
Email systems	Yes
Datasets including GIS	Yes, see table below
CAD systems	No
Wikis	No
Blogs	Yes. Chief Executives blog on the intranet
Case management systems	Yes. Lamplite for paper record file management. For other case management systems see Datasets below
Portable media (laptops, blackberries, memory sticks)	Yes
HR and Finance systems	Yes
Digital audio, film and photograph collections	No
Other (please state)	

3.4.1 Table 3.4.1 Systems and Databases

Name of database	Purpose database serves in Department	Information contained of historical value
ACBS - (Advanced Commercial Banking System) by Fidelity	Industry standard commercial banking system. Manages the transactions (loans and claims information) at both the pre- and post-issue stages. Following a planned change to systems architecture in Summer 2010, henceforth ACBS will only contain data related to issued cases	No
ARID - Analysis and Reporting Information Database	ECGD's Information Database. Main source of data for ECGD's corporate reports. Following a planned change to systems architecture in Summer 2010 ARID will be replaced with CEDAR (see below), ECGD's new Information Database	No
CODA general ledger (by CODA Financials)	ECGD's General Ledger. Main source of information for the financial reports, including ECGD's Annual Accounts	No
ECAMS	Used by to manage exposure and capital adequacy in relation to ECGD's financial targets	No
CAPRAM	Pricing Model for ECGD's Business	No
Credit Explorer	Risk modelling and management tool, enables monthly reports of expected loss and capital funding	No
MAGNUS	Precursor to the ACBS system, this legacy system was used to manage ECGD's portfolio. MAGNUS has been fully decommissioned, with all relevant data migrated to the replacement corporate systems.	No
SUMMIT (Misys plc)	ECGD's treasury management system. Supports ECGD's FREF products	No

3.4.2 Under the Web Continuity project the **website** will be archived three times a year. ECGD's website is fully compliant with relevant standards set by the Information Commissioner relating to Freedom of Information. ECGD's website was transferred to a new, more technically advanced platform in the summer of 2010.

3.4.3 The content on the **intranet** is not sophisticated, containing only simple staff information such as policies, departmental structures, information on travel and subsistence. There is the Chief Executive's blog but no wikis. The intranet will not be selected.

3.5 Publications produced by the organisation

(Table 3.5: Types of publications and preservation strategies)

Types of publications	Preservation strategy	Appraisal notes
Standards	n/a	
Inspections	n/a	
Guidance/ codes of practice	On intranet and website	Guidance notes for products and services available to ECGD's customers - working tools - not to be selected
Training manuals, curricula	n/a	
Annual reports	At British Library	Printed and deposited at BL - not to be selected (OSP 36 Publications/Grey literature)
Research reports	n/a	
Main output is public information (such as museums or archives)	n/a	
Trade journals ('ECGD News' and 'Global Exporter')	At British Library (?)	Publications for ECGD's customers. These publications were discontinued in 2007.
Newsletters	None needed	Newsletters for customers on developments, changes, achievements - not to be selected

3.6 Scientific records

None

3.7 Significant policy issues for the period of appraisal (see also section 1.6: Background, functions and activities)

Records concerned with the management of all the following reviews will be selected.

Policy issues for the period of this report have centred on both the type of work ECGD should be undertaking and the way in which ECGD carries out its business.

ECGD became a re-insurer in 1991 following the privatisation of ECGD's Insurance Services Group (ISG) which was responsible for the provision of export credit insurance for exports of consumer durables, components, raw materials normally sold on short term credit. ECGD provided re-insurance to NCM, the new owner of ISG. A review of the provision of this facility was undertaken in 1999 when market conditions changed and business interest declined.

One of the key conclusions of the Mission and Status Review (1999-2000) was that ECGD should develop and publish a statement of Business Principles which would guide its practice and policies in the following areas: Business; Sustainable Development and Human Rights; Transparency; Business Integrity; and Developing Countries.

The OECD issued a statement on combating bribery in officially supported export transactions in 2003. It required export credit agencies to take certain measures to deter corruption in export transactions which they support. The revised anti-corruption procedures which ECGD introduced in response to this statement formed the subject of a lengthy public consultation running from the start of 2005 until mid 2006. The procedures resulting from that consultation were introduced in July 2006.

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy committed all central government departments to producing a Sustainable Development Action Plan before 2005. In ECGD's particular case the action plan (finalised in 2007) focussed on its opportunities to influence

sustainable development through working alongside other Export Credit Agencies and in multi-lateral international fora.

In 2009 ECGD launched a Letter of Credit Guarantee Scheme to assist UK exporters during the global downturn. The scheme was designed to increase the availability of short-term export finance by giving guarantees to UK banks who confirmed letters of credit issued by overseas banks in favour of UK exporters in order to protect those UK banks against non-payment by the overseas issuers. The scheme is intended to operate until March 2011.

Also in 2009 ECGD launched a public consultation on proposed changes to its Business Principles and Ancillary Policies to bring them in to line with internationally applied standards, as well as publishing a review of its anti-bribery procedures. ECGD subsequently adopted a new statement of mission and principles.

3.8 Internal administration records

[Operational Selection Policy 38 on Records of Internal Administration](#) states that as well as records selected from the 'lead' departments records concerned with reforms may be selected from 'non-lead' departments if the impact is significant. Issues of this nature in ECGD's case centred on the possibility of its privatisation and abolition. Although these issues would be considered by the department at a strategic, board, level there was also detailed consideration at a review or project level.

- In 1984 Sir Peter Matthews recommended that ECGD should become a government owned public corporation that provided insurance and financial services and to do so at a profit. The Government did not accept this although a further review was undertaken to explore the scope for change in the organisation to increase private sector involvement
- The Kemp Review which ultimately led to the sale of Comprehensive Insurance Group in 1991
- A Mission and Status Review took place between 1999 and 2000 and examined the department's current aims, objectives, role and status taking into account its relationship with the government's wider objectives. The review concluded that

there was a sound business case for retaining ECGD but that its mission and recommended business principles should be consistent with wider government objectives

- In 2001 the Government proposed that ECGD should operate as a government trading fund. ECGD operated a pilot trading fund from April 2005 but this idea was abandoned by Ministers in 2007. In April 2008, it was decided that ECGD would operate under a new financial framework agreed with HM Treasury
- Records relating to these changes to the structure and role of ECGD will be selected

The closure of the Cardiff Office and the relocation of staff to London as part of the drive for greater efficiency in 2006 were also significant.

- Records relating to the relocation and funding arrangements will be adequately covered in the Management Board records which will be selected

Section 4: Records to be selected for The National Archives

The following records will be selected:

Committees

The records of the Export Guarantees Advisory Council - Agenda, Minutes and Papers

The records of the Management Board - Agenda, Minutes and Papers

Policy work

Project/policy records relating to reviews of ECGD's remit role, status, policies and rules

Operational records

Case files which meet the criterion of having a High Potential Impact under ECGD's case impact analysis process

Section 5: Additional information and follow-up

5.1 Additional Checks

Case Files

Each case file has a unique number. Case files for projects with a High Potential Impact can run to many parts. This is because several divisions in the department would make a contribution to the project according to their function and each would create separate parts of the file.

A typical file might contain parts covering:

1. control - requests for cover
2. campaigns
3. resettlement of inhabitants - possible outcome if project proceeds
4. briefings
5. correspondence
6. reports
7. consultants' contracts
8. Environmental Impact Assessments - public comments
9. cultural heritage
10. consultancy reports
11. legal advice
12. NGOs environmental matters
13. Select Committee

There is a main file, consisting of perhaps 6 parts, which contains the most important documents for the project. However, it is considered that in order to have a full understanding of all aspects of the project all parts should be selected.

OSPs

There is no OSP which relates directly to ECGD. However, the Appraisal report is in line with [OSP 36 Publications/Grey literature](#) and [OSP 38 Internal Administration](#).

Quality of committee minutes and papers

A full set of agendas, minutes and papers has been maintained for the selected committees.

File series for the selected records

- Export Guarantees Advisory Council - SEC 7034 and A 11
- Management Board - G1
- reviews of status, policy, remit and role, policies and rules - SR and SEC 71 and 77 series
- case files - facility/deal/guarantee number

5.2 Impact on records of other departments

Records of the Shareholders Executive's oversight of ECGD will be selected from BIS.

5.3 Follow-up

The Report will be reviewed and updated at least every three years, and earlier if there are any major changes to the functions of the department or when there are any significant records management reviews or an EDRMS is introduced.