

# United Kingdom

## Major Projects Review Group (MPRG)



**TYPE OF TOOL:**  
*Capacity building*



**MAIN SECTOR:**  
*All sectors*



**INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS:**  
*Fiscal sustainability, affordability and value for money*

### In a nutshell:



**OBJECTIVE:** The Major Projects Review Group (MPRG) aims to improve the performance of projects and programmes and advise HM Treasury ministers on whether the largest and most complex major government projects are ready to proceed through the next stage-gate.



**Agency in charge**  
**Infrastructure and Projects Authority**



**Levels of government**  
**National and sub-national**



**Year of implementation:**  
**2007**



**Current status:**  
**Fully operational**

### Overview:

Strong governance arrangements mean strong project delivery. This includes appropriate checks and balances to ensure that there is an ongoing assessment of whether a project offers value for money as it evolves through its life cycle. Large projects can entail fiscal risks that can affect the overall public investment programme. For this reason, the governance of large projects should not be left in the hands of the sector ministries alone. Central agencies responsible for the oversight of public investment programmes should be a part of the governance structure.

The UK Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) arranges and manages independent assurance reviews of major government projects each year. These reviews are mainly for the central government's most complex and high-risk projects within the Government Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP). Assurance is an essential part of successful project delivery. The IPA has established a Major Projects Review Group (MPRG) comprised of a pool of experts, from which panels are put together to scrutinise the largest and most complex major government projects. It is co-chaired by the Chief Executive of the Civil Service and the Second Permanent Secretary to the Treasury. The MPRG Panels challenge projects on deliverability, affordability and value for money at key points in the project life cycle. The MPRG aims to improve the performance of projects and programmes and advise HM Treasury ministers on which projects within the GMPP are ready to proceed through the next stage-gate. Projects are selected for MPRG review according to the following criteria: projects with a whole life cost of over £1bn; projects that are high risk and complex in their procurement and delivery of benefits; projects that set a precedent, or are highly innovative; and other projects 'of concern' (as agreed by the MPRG Chair, may be recommended by HM Treasury or the IPA).

#### REFERENCES:

- Infrastructure and Projects Authority (2021), Infrastructure and Projects Authority: assurance review toolkit, <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/infrastructure-and-projects-authority-assurance-review-toolkit>