

Equality of access

The Government and Lottery distributors are committed to making funding available to all sectors of society. Part of this process was setting up the Lottery funding hotline and portal in February 2001. Jointly funded by the England and United Kingdom-wide Lottery distributors, the hotline (0845 275 0000) makes funding information easily accessible to groups who have limited experience of applying for funding. The joint internet portal at www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk directs browsers to those pages on each of the distributors' websites which outline how to apply for a grant. Lottery distributors have also made significant advances in simplifying the application process for grants, opening up funding to as many people as possible.

One of the Millennium Commission's strategic criteria for awarding grants was that projects must be accessible to all sectors of the community. Only around 25% of the Commission's capital projects are charging visitor attractions, and many projects, such as the National Cycle Network, are free to all. The Millennium Awards scheme has reached out to all communities, with 69% of Award winners' projects having helped to reduce isolation within communities; 91% of Millennium Festivals were open to anyone, 83% of them with free access.

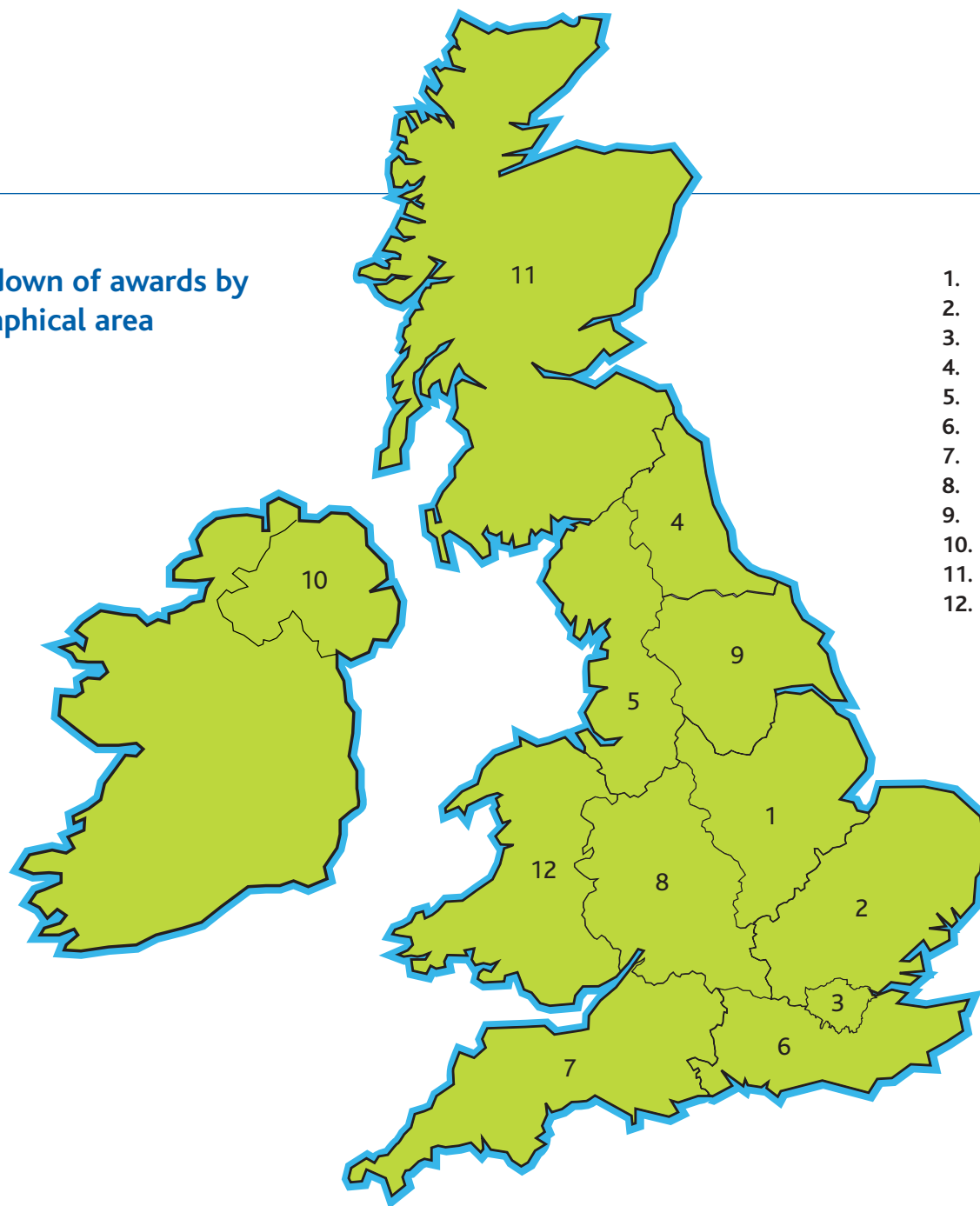
The New Opportunities Fund has made the promotion of equality one of its strategic objectives and is taking steps to ensure that its funding is available to all communities, particularly groups inexperienced in applying for grant funding.

Geographical distribution

The Lottery distributing bodies are required by the Government to ensure that all parts of the United Kingdom have access to funding. In the past there has been a degree of variation in the amount and number of awards between different regions of the country. Distributors are actively encouraging applications from low Lottery take-up areas such as coalfields, small towns and seaside resorts. In addition, the Government recently announced a £150 million targeted initiative, to be supported by the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund. It will fund projects in 50 deprived local authorities throughout the United Kingdom which have not received their fair shares of Lottery funding so far.

See map overleaf

Breakdown of awards by geographical area



1.	East Midlands	6,273 awards - £355 million
2.	Eastern	5,480 awards - £436 million
3.	London	8,990 awards - £1,531 million
4.	North East	4,955 awards - £427 million
5.	North West	7,276 awards - £845 million
6.	South East	7,850 awards - £612 million
7.	South West	8,870 awards - £550 million
8.	West Midlands	7,451 awards - £563 million
9.	Yorkshire and Humberside	6,683 awards - £544 million
10.	Northern Ireland	3,913 awards - £328 million
11.	Scotland	14,428 awards - £928 million
12.	Wales	7,535 awards - £485 million

All England	2,762 awards - £1,005 million
England and Wales Wide	6 awards - £31 million
Great Britain Wide	779 awards - £16 million
United Kingdom Wide	3,182 awards - £1,019 million
Overseas	553 awards - £110 million

Sport England is committed to ensuring an even spread of Lottery funding. To date, awards to projects have been made to over 350 local authority areas in every single county. However, there is the acknowledgement that this even spread of Lottery money must be balanced against the body's objective of ensuring Lottery monies are targeted at the areas of greatest need.

The Arts Council of England has given Lottery awards to artists and arts organisations in every local authority in England while the Arts Council of Wales has made Lottery awards to all unitary authorities in Wales.

The New Opportunities Fund carefully monitors the distribution of grants across the United Kingdom. It aims to ensure that grants are fairly distributed while also making sure that particular areas of disadvantage are given priority where appropriate. For example, it has awarded the Learning for Life consortia led by the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside nearly £200,000 through its community access to lifelong learning programme. The grant will enable a whole range of 'virtual visitors' across the United Kingdom and further to view collections, historic buildings and other resources under the Heritage on-line scheme.

The Millennium Commission identified three strategic criteria on which to base its awards to capital projects, one of which was that there should be a good spread of projects across the United Kingdom. The Commission has supported at least one major project in each region and country of the United Kingdom. In addition, umbrella projects such as Church Floodlighting and Millennium Greens link communities across the country. The Millennium Awards scheme has distributed grants in every county of the United Kingdom, from the Hebrides to the Isles of Scilly. The 2,200 Millennium Festival events took place all over the country, with New Year's Eve 2000 events in 32 towns and cities.

All **sportscotland** Lottery Fund programmes are national programmes and **sportscotland** distributes awards widely throughout Scotland in response to applications. To date, the Sports Council for Northern Ireland has invested almost £30 per head of population in Northern Ireland. Awards have been made for projects throughout the province and all 26 District Councils in Northern Ireland have benefited from funding.