

NATIONAL LOTTERY SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO THE DCMS CONSULTATION ON POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR THE TRANSFORMATIONAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The consultation ran from 7 March to 30 April 2005 and we received twenty seven responses. Most of the respondents welcomed the opportunity to comment. Generally there was **broad support for the directions** with three concerns: partnership funding; an equitable spread across the UK; and public voting/involvement. In addition a minor drafting change was suggested by one of the respondents to paragraph 4(b).

1. Two of the respondents expressed some unease about the requirement for significant partnership funding. (Directions given to the National Lottery Charities Board point 2)
 - Partnership funding is essential to help ensure there is financial buy-in from partners; and it also helps off-set potential risks in terms of sustainability. The Transformational Grants Programme is a UK-wide programme with an initial budget of £140m and partnership funding will help to underpin the development of the programme.
 - However in light of the concerns raised we have revised the directions, so that the Big Lottery Fund has to consider that some applicants in particular areas may have more difficulties in getting certain levels of partnership funding than others,
2. One respondent suggested the insertion of *across the UK* at point 2 of the directions given to New Opportunities Fund. Two respondents raised the issue of achieving an equitable spread of funding across the UK.
 - Both of these points are met by existing policy directions. The National Lottery Charities Boards' existing directions require the Board to take into account "*the interests of the UK as a whole, the interests of different parts of the UK and the relative population sizes of, and appropriate socio-economic factors applicable to, the different parts of the UK*". The New Opportunities Funds' existing directions require the Fund to take into account "*the need to ensure that all parts of the UK have access to funding and the scope for reducing economic and social deprivation at the same time as delivering benefits specified under each initiative*".
 - We are not persuaded that it is appropriate to make the suggested amendment as it appears to commit the Big Lottery Fund to ensuring a share of equitable funding across the UK specifically in the Transformational Grants Programme. It is a UK wide programme, but in competition, therefore there can be no firm guarantee of funding.
3. Concerns about public voting and involvement were raised by three respondents, some of whom also commented that the Big Lottery Fund's own consultation showed the use of TV voting was one of the least favoured

methods of involving the public in decision making.

- The Big Lottery Fund is aware of these types of concern, and is alert to the need for a sensitive approach to the televised presentation.
4. One respondent raised a concern that the use of the word "or" at the end of paragraph 4(b) (Directions given to the NLCB) made this direction appear to be optional.
- In light of this concern we have revised this direction to read "and".

Twelve of the responses were not directly related to the directions, but were about the logistics of the programme, how it would operate and how to apply for funding etc. These types of questions were referred directly to the Big Lottery Fund.

To note:

The Transformational Grants directions are in addition to existing policy directions applying to National Lottery Charities Board (NLCB) and the New Opportunities Fund (NOF). They do not replicate matters already dealt with in the existing directions.