

c/o The National Archives
Ruskin Avenue
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National Lottery Shares 2009
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

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NATIONAL LOTTERY CONSULTATION

Consultation Response from the National Council on Archives

The National Council on Archives (NCA) is a membership organization, which represents a broad spectrum of the archival community including user groups, professionals, national and regional bodies. It aims to provide a single voice for the archival community and to lobby on matters of common interest. Outlined below is the Council's response to the current consultation on how lottery money should be spent after 2009.

Arts

1a Agree.

1b Oppose.

Whilst ideas like cultural entitlement for children and young people, and arts projects assisting health agendas are laudable, the activity outlined under 'Advocacy' does cause concern. If Arts funding is used "to communicate to others what it means to be British in other parts of the world" then this would act as a precedent for the use of funding for projects outside the UK across the lottery distributors. This would need to be considered very carefully as it is eroding the principal of lottery money only being used for projects to benefit people in the UK.

Film

2a Neither agree nor disagree

2b Strongly support

The idea of providing greater access to audio-visual material in the UK's national and regional archives is something that would be most welcome. However the DCMS must ensure that if this becomes a priority for lottery funding to the film sector, that this funding is additional to, and not instead of, the current meagre core funding to the UK's national and regional film archives.

In addition, any additional monies that may be provided must be given directly to film archives for this purpose, or ring fenced for this purpose and for those archives that hold, preserve and make film accessible if the resources are to be distributed through the current funding mechanisms. Otherwise, we risk further top slicing and non-allocation of funding by the three intermediary agencies between DCMS/Lottery funders and service deliverers.

Heritage

3a Strongly Agree.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has been vital to the archive sector in developing new approaches to service delivery and reaching out to new audiences. Unlike the ring-fenced streams of funding that have been made available to the museum sector (for example via the Renaissance in the Regions programme and the Museums and Galleries Education Programme), archives have never had access to comparable funding and are therefore heavily reliant on the HLF to support innovative work. The NCA's publication 'Giving Value' (http://www.ncaonline.org.uk/materials/nca_giving_value.pdf) includes a range of HLF-funded projects that demonstrate how archives can deliver new and better services. In addition, many lottery-funded projects focusing on the conservation of landscape, built and industrial heritage, would not be possible without recourse to materials held in archives. Through the development of community archives, the sector has fully embraced HLF's philosophy of widening participation.

3b Oppose

The NCA supports the continued aim to interpret the term 'heritage' as widely as possible. The NCA believes that the development of "learning and skills for tomorrow" and activities around "Young People and Identity" are covered by the existing strategic aims of HLF, which we fully support. The idea of putting money into "High Streets", however, should be approached with caution. Where this involves the restoration of historic buildings, or townscape initiative schemes then this is a role for HLF but other aspects of support and funding need to come from the broader regeneration sector and be developed in partnership with the private sector. There is a concern that with HLF's current remit under threat from reduced levels of funding, such activity would not only dilute the ability for HLF to make real change in the heritage sector as a whole, but would also weaken their unique positioning amongst the lottery distributors, in the eyes of both the public and the heritage sector. "Park" regeneration is clearly an important issue but as parks can also deliver on health, sports and environmental agendas funding for this area should be co-ordinated across the lottery distributors. A unified approach would enable a more cost effective programme of regeneration and ensure that parks are not disproportionately favoured above the rest of the heritage sector.

Sport

4a Neither agree nor disagree

4b Neither support nor oppose

Equality of Access to Money

5 Agree

The concept of need should be clarified. Clearly projects that can demonstrate evidence of need should be prioritised, however that need should be considered in both qualitative and quantitative terms. In other words, not simply funding the projects that reach the widest possible audience but also funding projects providing a high value impact on

particular target audiences. The need and value should be considered in terms of the projects itself and also its sustainable legacy.

Balance of Good Cause Funding

6 Strongly Agree

The continuation of an equitable spread between arts and film, heritage and sport would appear to be the most appropriate approach to future lottery distribution. It is also vitally important that once the decision on lottery share distribution post 2009 is made that this percentage share is enshrined and that there are no further attempts to redirect funding from arts and film, and heritage share allocations to the 2012 Olympics.

Future Directions

7 Agree

The NCA welcomes the continuation of the principle of awarding grants to a whole range of not-for-profit organisations, including statutory authorities. It would help clarify the need for lottery funding, if there were greater agreement on the nature of mainstream government services, particularly within the heritage sector. In the archive sector the issue of what constitutes an appropriate level of service for local authority archives needs addressing, and is one in which DCMS and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) could usefully engage with the Department of Constitutional Affairs and The National Archives (TNA), as well as bodies like NCA and the Association for Chief Archivists in Local Government.

8 Agree

Lottery distributors must maintain a distance from government, in order to ensure lottery funding is not used to replace core sources of funding. They must also be given a framework to deliver their strategic plans that is not dependent on electoral cycles, thus enabling them to deliver long-term benefits to the good causes. It is unfortunate that the consultation paper does not fully outline the 'overall framework of control' referred to as this precludes a full response on this question.

If you have any queries regarding this response please contact Louise Ray, NCA Archive Lottery Adviser on 020 8392 5347 in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Pepler
Chair