



National Lottery Good Causes

Key facts

The National Lottery was launched in 1994

National Lottery players have raised £36 billion for Good Causes since 1994

The National Lottery generates over £30 million for Good Causes every week

The UK National Lottery returns a higher proportion of Lottery revenue back to society than any other Lottery operator in the world

Over 500,000 grants have been given out across the arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education and the environment

Over 70% of all Lottery grants are for £10,000 or less – helping small projects make a big difference in their local community

There is an average of 177 Lottery grants per postcode district.

Good Cause areas:

The original five Good Causes established when the Lottery began were arts, charities, heritage, Millennium projects and sports. In 1999 'health, education and environment' was designated as an additional Good Cause. Big Lottery Fund is the legal successor to the Millennium Commission, which ceased to exist at the end of 2006. Lottery support for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games became a Good Cause in 2005.

Split of funding to Good Causes:

The income from each ticket sale, which is passed to the Lottery distributors, is worked out according to a formula set out in the operating licence. Currently sport, arts and heritage each receive 20 percent of this income and Big Lottery Fund receives the remaining 40 percent.

The Lottery family:

a) The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

Sets the policy direction for The National Lottery. It issues general guidelines for distributors but has no influence over which projects receive funding.

It maintains and manages the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF). The money in the NLDF is invested until it is drawn down by the Lottery distributors for payment to projects as and when it is needed. Interest from the Fund is re-invested in Good Causes.

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b) The National Lottery Commission (NLC)

The NLC is the regulator of the operator, Camelot, and exists to make sure that the Lottery is run in a fit and proper manner. It has no involvement in or influence over the distribution of money for Good Causes. The NLC runs the license competition – the first licence was issued in May 1994; the second was issued in December 2000; the third license was issued in August 2007 and commenced in February 2009.

c) Camelot Group plc

The operator of The National Lottery. Camelot raises the money paid into the NLDF but has no involvement in or influence over its distribution.

d) The Lottery funders (Distribution Bodies)

The organisations responsible for distributing Lottery money to the Good Causes are:

- Arts Council England
- Arts Council of Northern Ireland
- Arts Council of Wales
- Creative Scotland
- Big Lottery Fund (including Awards for All and Millennium Commission)
- British Film Institute
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Sport England
- Sport Northern Ireland
- sportscotland
- Sport Wales
- UK Sport

e) The National Lottery Promotions Unit (NLPU)

The role of the National Lottery Promotions Unit is to raise positive awareness of, and support for, the benefits of Lottery Good Cause funding across the UK. Set up in 2004, we are committed to communicating how The National Lottery has changed people's lives for the better. The role of the NLPU is also to create a pan-Lottery identity – bringing together the seven diverse areas of Lottery funding so that the public gets a clear understanding of where their Lottery money goes.

For further information, please contact:

Michael Thompson, National Lottery Promotions Unit: 020 7211 3894

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