

THE GUIDE TO NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING



WELCOME TO OUR GUIDE TO NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING



As Chair of The National Lottery Forum, it is my pleasure to introduce this guide to National Lottery funding. For three decades, The National Lottery has been an extraordinary force for good across the United Kingdom, providing over £49 billion in funding to support over 690,000 projects nationwide.

This remarkable achievement spans a diverse range of sectors - from arts and heritage to community initiatives, sports programmes, and beyond. Behind each of these projects are teams of dedicated specialists who ensure that National Lottery funding reaches those who need it most and can use it to greatest effect.

Founded in 1994, The National Lottery has become a true national treasure, one that touches lives in every corner of the UK. Each and every week, National Lottery players raise an astounding £30 million for good causes. This ongoing generosity helps transform communities, support vital charitable work, preserve our heritage, nurture sporting talent, and bring creative visions to life.

In the pages that follow, you'll find detailed information on each of our specialist funding bodies and the types of projects they support. Whether you're looking to apply for funding or simply want to learn more about the incredible impact of The

National Lottery, I hope you'll find this guide both informative and inspiring.

The National Lottery is more than just a game - it's a powerful catalyst for positive change, helping to build a stronger, more vibrant society for us all. As we approach our 30th anniversary, we remain committed to funding extraordinary ideas that enrich lives and strengthen communities across the UK.

Thank you for your interest in National Lottery funding. Together, we are changing lives every day.

Darren Henley,
Chair of The National Lottery Forum



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For further information, please contact the Public Affairs team at the National Lottery Promotions Unit (NLPU).
Email: public.affairs@lotterygoodcauses.org.uk

THREE DECADES OF TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM

As we mark 30 years since the launch of The National Lottery, it's crucial to recognise its significant contribution to the social and economic fabric of all nations within the UK. This institution has become an indispensable force for positive change across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Unparalleled Investment in Local Communities

- £49 billion raised for projects benefiting constituents across all four nations
- Over 690,000 initiatives supported, reaching every corner of the UK
- £30 million generated weekly, equating to £4 million daily for good causes
- 70% of funded projects received £10,000 or less, ensuring broad grassroots impact in all regions

Transformative Impact Across Sectors

The National Lottery has been instrumental in supporting a wide range of initiatives, from preserving our diverse national heritage to bolstering community programs and funding our Olympic and Paralympic athletes. With grants disbursed across all postcode districts, it's highly likely that every constituency, from the Scottish Highlands to rural Wales, from Northern Irish communities to English cities, has seen tangible benefits from National Lottery funding.

Economic Stimulus and Job Creation

- £92 billion awarded in prize money, stimulating local economies across the UK
- Over 7,000 millionaires created since 1994, often leading to further local investment
- 382 new millionaires in the last year alone, spread across all nations
- A Truly UK-Wide Enterprise
- 28 million regular players from diverse demographic backgrounds across all four nations
- 98% brand recognition, demonstrating widespread public engagement throughout the UK
- Sales volumes surpassing major UK brands, underlining its economic significance in all regions



Supporting Small Businesses and High Streets

- 40,000+ retail partners across the UK, many of which are small, independent businesses
- 94% of UK adults have convenient access to a National Lottery terminal, regardless of nation
- £7.9 billion earned by retail partners to date, averaging £6,000 per store last year, supporting local economies in all four nations

Substantial Contribution to Public Finances

- £20.9 billion in Lottery Duty has directly supported public expenditure since 1994, benefiting all four nations through the UK

A Model of Responsible Growth

The National Lottery's strategy of "lots of people playing a little" has created the world's 7th largest lottery by sales, while maintaining a responsible 66th place in per capita spend. This approach ensures widespread participation and maximises positive impact across all UK nations and regions.

As we reflect on 30 years of The National Lottery, its role in transforming communities, fuelling local economies, and creating opportunities for constituents across all four nations is clear. It stands as a testament to successful public-private partnership, delivering tangible benefits to communities throughout England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.



COMMUNITY



THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND



The National Lottery Community Fund supports amazing projects that create more inclusive and environmentally sustainable communities. Thanks to National Lottery players, we'll distribute over £4 billion by 2030 to strengthen society and improve lives across the UK.

The Fund has four key missions, which are to support communities to come together, be environmentally sustainable, help children and young people thrive and enable people to live healthier lives.

In the last year, we have awarded over half a billion pounds (£686.3 million) of life-changing funding to communities across the UK, supporting over 13,700 projects to turn their great ideas into reality.

We're privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life. Our ambition is to invest most in places, people and communities experiencing poverty, disadvantage and discrimination.

Find out more about funding opportunities at: tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding





THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND



As the largest funder for the UK's heritage, our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

We see heritage as broad and inclusive, adapting to contemporary and future uses and challenges. From historic buildings, our industrial legacy and the natural environment, to collections, traditions, stories and more. Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations.

Since 1994, we have invested over £8.9 billion in more than 48,000 projects. Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to support projects that connect people and communities to the UK's heritage.

Find out more about us at:
heritagefund.org.uk



ARTS AND CULTURE



The BFI is a cultural charity and the UK's lead body for film, television and the moving image. We invest National Lottery funds to help preserve UK screen culture's past, present and future. This includes unlocking our film heritage, inspiring and funding the next generation of UK filmmaking talent and crew, helping audiences to access a wider range of independent UK and international cinema, and ensuring UK film is seen and enjoyed all over the world.

Over the past 30 years, we (and our predecessors) have invested National Lottery funds in more than 600 UK independent films, which have attracted in excess of 100 million cinema admissions and won over 500 awards, including Oscars® and BAFTAs. Between 2023-2026 we will be investing £45 million per annum of National Lottery funding to ensure that screen culture is central to the lives of

UK citizens, encouraging the continued vibrancy of stories that we tell on screen, and maximising the cultural, educational, social and economic benefits UK-wide.

We seek to reflect the diversity of the UK public in the films we support, the audiences who watch them, and the filmmakers, actors and crews who make them. And we work with government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally.

Find out more about funding opportunities at: bfi.org.uk/get-funding-support





Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture across England. As we have set out in our 10-year strategy Let's Create, by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

We believe more people in more places should share the joy, inspiration, and benefits that better access to excellent creative activities and cultural experiences can bring – from the visual arts to theatre, literature to dance, music to exhibitions, and crafts to collections. Vital funding from The National Lottery makes that happen in communities in all corners of the country.

Find out about us at: artscouncil.org.uk



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

ARTS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND



The Arts Council of Northern Ireland develops and champions the arts. We support people and organisations who deliver great creative experiences.

Since 1995, we have awarded over **9,000** grants and invested **£211 million** into arts projects, transforming the lives of countless people and communities, thanks to The National Lottery and money raised for good causes.

We work in partnership with hundreds of artists, arts organisations, venues and local communities every year, delivering the vision of our 10-Year Strategy, 'Championing The Arts, 2024-34', of a society where all people can experience a thriving arts sector that is recognised as essential to creativity, wellbeing and social and economic prosperity.

Discover more at: artscouncil-ni.org



Since 1995, the Arts Council of Wales has awarded almost £400 million to 15,620 projects, supporting creativity in every part of the country.

This investment has transformed old buildings into vibrant cultural spaces, brought people together through shared experiences, and championed the talent of Wales's artists and arts organisations.

Our funding spans everything from grassroots projects in village halls to major festivals, embracing the full spectrum of our culture – from contemporary performance to Gwerin,

our historic folk traditions. We celebrate Wales's diversity of languages, stories, and artforms, ensuring the arts reach people from all walks of life.

We're exploring how creativity can boost health and wellbeing, address the climate emergency, and remove barriers that stop people taking part. Above all, we believe the arts have the power to connect, inspire and transform communities.

Find out more at: **arts.wales**



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



An incredible £678 million of National Lottery funding has been awarded to arts, screen, creative organisations and individuals across Scotland over the last 28 years.

In our role as Scotland's primary development and funding agency, Creative Scotland, inclusive of Screen Scotland is a proud distributor of National Lottery funding and grants from Scottish Government to enable people to bring creative ideas to life, to develop and sustain rewarding careers, and to experience arts and culture.

The National Lottery has played a huge role in transforming the cultural landscape in Scotland, supporting and inspiring new work by individual creatives, award-winning venues and renowned festivals. It continues to help bring together communities and open up opportunities for people from all walks of life, adding joy and pleasure to people's lives.

Find out more about funding opportunities at: creativescotland.com/funding





UK Sport is on a mission to create the greatest decade of extraordinary sporting moments which reach, unite and inspire the nation through elite sport. Through strategic leadership and investment since 1997, UK Sport has transformed the Olympic and Paralympic sporting community, winning more medals than ever before and helping ensure the UK is recognised as a world leader in hosting major sporting events.

Ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, UK Sport invested £385 million of National Lottery and Government money to support British

athlete's preparations which helped them to deliver inspirational performances at the Games and to secure record breaking medal hauls across both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Furthermore, since 2012, we have helped secure 130 international major sporting events for the UK, providing impact and inspirational moments for people in every corner of our country to enjoy.

Find out about us at: uksport.gov.uk



From left to right :

Photo by Gary Oakley/Getty Images for The National Lottery, photo by Michael Steele/Getty Images



Sport England's mission is to invest in sport and physical activity to make it a normal part of life for everyone in England, regardless of who you are.

We provide expertise, insight, and funding to help everyone feel able to participate in sport and physical activity.

Barriers to activity can range from a person's postcode to bank balance or gender, as well as deep-rooted inequalities making people feel like sport and physical activity is not for them.

Our Uniting the Movement strategy aims to tackle these inequalities and support people and communities who've traditionally been left behind.

We invest up to £300 million of National Lottery and government money annually in local sporting offers, facilities, and innovative models and campaigns that drive participation.

Find out about us at:
sportengland.org/funding





Sport Northern Ireland has awarded more than £213 million of National Lottery funding to over 3,600 sports projects in Northern Ireland, representing over 70 different sports.

As the leading public body developing sport in Northern Ireland, we are passionate about maximising the power of sport to change lives. We foster a strong sporting culture and a shared commitment to meaningful sporting outcomes. We achieve this through National Lottery funding.

Sport Northern Ireland's mission statement is clear: by 2026 we want the power of sport to be recognised and valued by all.

Find out more about funding opportunities on our website: sportni.net/funding



National Lottery funding supports Sport Wales in enabling sport in Wales to thrive.

With grants aimed at supporting clubs to reduce inequality, create long-term sustainability and introduce new or different ways of operating, the National Lottery funded Be Active Wales Fund has helped thousands of clubs since its launch in July 2020 and continues to support grassroots clubs in every corner of Wales.

National Lottery funding shapes the stories of elite Welsh athletes in supporting their development to represent their nation on the world stage.

Thanks to National Lottery players, Sport Wales are also able to invest in innovative national organisations such as the Urdd, StreetGames Wales and The National Lottery award-winning Black Swimming Association.

Find out more about funding opportunities on our website: sport.wales/grants-and-funding



*sportwales
chwaraeon cymru*





sportscotland
the national agency for sport

sportscotland is the national agency for sport in Scotland with a vision for an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport. Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, sportscotland help the people of Scotland get the most from the sporting system.

Since The National Lottery launched, **sportscotland** has invested over £225 million into 6,390 community sports projects in Scotland; funding sports facilities, creating playing fields and increasing sporting opportunities for millions of people.

We influence, inform and invest in the organisations and people who deliver sport and physical activity. We want people to be active more often.

An active Scotland is one where people are encouraged to participate, progress and achieve in sport, becoming more active and staying active.

Find out about us at: sportscotland.org.uk



MEET THE REAL NATIONAL LOTTERY WINNERS: MAKING AMAZING HAPPEN

These recent National Lottery Award winners from 2023 and their National Lottery funded initiatives received recognition for their game-changing efforts in transforming lives and making a lasting difference in their communities.



Bangor Court House, Northern Ireland (National Lottery Project of the Year)

This £1 million project in Bangor transformed a defunct court into a vibrant cultural hub. Endorsed by Snow Patrol's Gary Lightbody, it exemplifies how community vision and National Lottery funding can redefine a city's cultural landscape.



Project SIARC, Wales (Wales Project of the Year)

This Wales-wide initiative protects marine life, safeguarding 27 species of sharks, skates, and rays. Combining research with community engagement, it sets new standards for marine conservation globally.



Katie Mahon - Bloomin' Buds Theatre Company, Bradford (Arts, Culture & Film Category Winner)

Katie Mahon's company in Bradford revolutionises access to the arts, tackling class stigma through a groundbreaking Fellowship programme. It engages 200 people weekly, addressing social issues and changing the narrative on working-class representation in the arts.

THE REAL WINNERS



Esther Fox - Curating for Change, England-wide (Heritage Category Winner)

Esther Fox's England-wide project transforms museum experiences by championing D/deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent voices. Her programme creates opportunities in the heritage sector, setting a new standard for inclusivity in cultural institutions.



Tim Holtam - Brighton Table Tennis Club (Sports Category Winner)

Tim Holtam's Brighton-based club engages 1,500 people weekly, welcoming refugees, disabled individuals, and ex-prisoners. It demonstrates how sport can break down social barriers and build stronger communities, inspiring similar initiatives nationwide.



Danny Renton - Seawilding, Argyll (Environment Category Winner)

Danny Renton's project in Argyll pioneers marine conservation and rewilding native oysters. It creates green jobs, revolutionises marine education, and sets a benchmark for community-led ecological restoration.



Osmond Gordon-Vernon - Life Is What U Make It, London (Young Hero Category Winner)

Osmond's innovative board game, developed in London, tackles youth crime and gang culture. His youth-led initiative offers a fresh approach to urban social issues, demonstrating the power of shared experiences in community change.



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