



Cabinet Office

## **Consultation on new policy directions for the Big Lottery Fund: distribution of National Lottery money in England and UK-wide funding programmes**

### **Response Form**

Launched on: 20 May 2016

Respond by: 12 August 2016

# Office for Civil Society

## Section 1: About your interest in the Big Lottery Fund

We are asking for this information to enable us to identify whether there are themes in the comments and questions raised by different customer and stakeholder groups.

**You may need to click the 'Enable Editing' box at the top of your screen before starting your response.  
To indicate your answers, right-click the chosen box, select 'properties' and pick the option 'checked'.**

**In what capacity are you responding to this public consultation?** (Please pick one of the following answers):

- a)  As a member of the public (please go direct to the questions in Section 3)
- b)  On behalf of an organisation
- c)  With your personal views as a customer, stakeholder or partner of the Big Lottery Fund

If you have answered (b) or (c) above, we would also be grateful if you would provide some information on what kind of organisation you work in or volunteer for, as is most relevant to your interest in the Big Lottery Fund. **Please pick one of the following answers:**

- An umbrella or representative body
- A charity, voluntary or community group or social enterprise
- A non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Local authority/government body
- Public services delivery body
- UK central government or public body
- National government in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland
- Sector infrastructure body
- Another funding body or grant-making organisation
- Big Lottery Fund (current or former employee)
- Other

# Office for Civil Society

Please provide a summary description of your organisation.

For example: 'Small local charity from the North-East of England that supports the elderly to be more independent' .

The membership and campaigns body for social enterprises in the UK. Social Enterprise UK recognises that from time to time Government has the right to steer

## Section 2: About you (optional)

To enable us to contact you, should it be helpful to further explore with you any of the comments you make in your reply, please provide your name and the easiest contact details for you. **This is entirely optional** - you do not need to provide this information if you do not wish to do so. Any contact information you do provide here will be kept confidential and will not be published. Please see page 5 of the consultation document on how your information will be handled.

Name	Contact Details
James Butler	James.butler@socialenterprise.org.uk ; 020 3589 4953

If you are happy for us to know it, please tell us the name of your organisation - **this is entirely optional**. Please also put an **X** in the box if you are happy for us to list your organisation in the published outcomes report as a contributor to the consultation. Please see page 5 of the consultation document on how your information will be handled.

# Office for Civil Society

Organisation name	Include in list of contributing organisations
Social Enterprise UK	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section 3: Consultation questions

Please use one row in the tables below to comment on a section as a whole (i.e. either UK and England directions or England only) and/or each individual direction (e.g. 3.C.3) that you wish to comment on. It is important that you give us the number of the direction in the first column so that we can accurately collate the comments received. The number of comments you make are not restricted - please do add extra rows to the table if you wish to add more comments.

To add extra rows, click in a cell above or below where you want to add a row.

Select the 'Table Layout' OR 'Table Tools' tab and then 'Layout', click 'Insert Above/Below' in 'Rows and Columns'.

### QUESTION 1:

Is there anything set out in these directions that the Big Lottery Fund should not be doing?

If your answer is yes, please tell us what it is and why they should not be doing it.

Section or Direction	What the Fund should not be doing	Why?
----------------------	-----------------------------------	------

# Office for Civil Society

<p>1C The need to take into account the following principles:  <b>VARIETY AND INNOVATION:</b> Distributing funds to a wide spread of projects, primarily those delivered by civil society organisations, <b>in particular small and medium sized charities, or the organisations that support them</b>, backing new and innovative approaches and organisations, as well as tried and tested models.(our bold)</p>	<p>The directions should not be narrowly defining what variety looks like.</p>	<p>We wholeheartedly welcome a renewed and stronger emphasis on variety and innovation, yet the direction then goes on to defeat its object by defining variety as “small and medium sized charities or the organisations that support them”.</p> <p>Either the direction should remove this phrase or be widened to include small and medium sized organisations from the VCSE sector.</p> <p>This direction runs the risk of the perception that BLF funding largely there to support small and medium sized charities, rather than support projects which help communities and the lives of people it considers most in need.</p>
<p>3C5 Supporting the use of social investment as a means to improve sustainability and impact.</p>	<p>The Fund should not be supporting social investment.</p> <p>Rather the Fund should be supporting VCSE organisations to improve their sustainability and impact, and one way they achieve this may be through social investment.</p>	<p>This proposed direction raises concern; it may be that it requires contextualisation or slight redrafting.</p> <p>Social Enterprise UK believes that social investment has a valuable – if limited and yet still largely unproven– role for the VCSE sector.</p> <p>We see a possible role for BLF funding in supporting the VCSE sector explore the possibilities that social investment might offer and would not wish for a direction to prevent BLF funding being used to explore social investment.</p>

# Office for Civil Society

		<p>However as currently drafted (and in particularly combined with the proposed focus of funding on small and medium sized charities) 3C5 may allow the perception to arise that Government is seeking to direct BLF funding to change the nature of small and medium sized charities. This is obviously politically charged territory.</p> <p>Redrafting the direction along the lines of “Supporting the VCSE sector to improve its impact and sustainability, for example though exploring the opportunities social investment may offer” may be sufficient to alleviate our concern.</p> <p>Social investment is an ill-defined term. The only statutory definition which exists relates to social investments made by charities and, in Social Enterprise UK’s view, is a partial definition. Given it is difficult to define, the Big Lottery will need to explain how it will differentiate between a social investment and measure which is not a social investment but improves sustainability and impact when judging applications. This is likely to be difficult and further suggests that if social investment is to be included, it should be an empowering measure and subordinate to the wider aim of improving impact and sustainability.</p>
--	--	--

## QUESTION 2:

Is there anything else the Big Lottery Fund should be doing, not covered by these directions?

If your answer is yes, please tell us what else they should be doing and why.

Section or Direction	What else should the Fund be doing?	Why?
3C7 Supporting and strengthening organisational infrastructure, capability and provision, particularly the youth sector.	Social Enterprise UK strongly supports the inclusion of this direction – is there an evidence base to support the emphasis on the youth sector?	
1CA	There is perhaps an opportunity for the Fund to support people in their efforts to start up charities and social enterprises.	<p>“We will give more people the power to...start their own social enterprise..” – Conservative Manifesto page 45.</p> <p>Government is yet to say how it will fulfil this obligation. A steer that the Fund will support charitable and social enterprise start-ups, and not just existing small and medium sized charities, would be one way to meet the manifesto promise.</p>

## QUESTION 3:

The Big Lottery Fund has, since its creation, distributed a relatively small proportion of its funding to UK NGOs to deliver projects in some of the most disadvantaged areas in the world. The Big Lottery Fund believes its international funding will continue to play an important if modest part in delivering its mission. It has also on occasion contributed to major disaster recovery efforts overseas; in 2016, for example, the Fund expects to award £2.24m in grants to 8 organisations supporting recovery from the Nepal earthquake, and £3.5m through a partnership with Comic Relief to support slum communities in Liberia to recover from Ebola.

What is your view of the Fund's international work? Are you content with the policy direction (2.E) covering this work - is there anything more you would expect to see or are there any limits or conditions you would expect the Fund to apply to this work, which should be included in the final policy directions?

Social Enterprise UK supports the principle of a small proportion of the Fund being used for international development. We recognise that the Fund was conceived before Government committed to 0.7% of Gross National Income on international development, and we welcome the opportunity to reflect on how the Fund's small proportion of its funding should be best used in light of the change. However, we wonder the proposed Direction merits further dialogue with concerned parties.

The wording of the proposed Direction is slightly unclear: "When funding UK-based organisations to provide benefit outside the UK and the Isle of Man, the focus should be on the exchange and interchange of best practice and new approaches, and should prioritise the involvement of communities and civil society organisations."

Does this mean support for UK-based "communities and civil society organisations" or does it mean supporting UK-based organisations

# Office for Civil Society

who support the “involvement of communities and civil society organisations” based abroad, or both? This has quite important implications.

Does the wording “focus should be on the exchange and interchange of best practice and new approaches” represent a shift away from support for large scale international emergency aid efforts?

## QUESTION 4:

Is there any part of these directions that is not immediately clear or that you do not understand, either in terms of the language used or the intent behind the direction?

Section or Direction	What is not immediately clear?	Why? How could it be improved?
2E	As explained above.	

# Office for Civil Society

3C5	As explained above.	As explained above.
-----	---------------------	---------------------

In conclusion, is there anything else you wish to say about these policy directions?

The proposed policy directions represent around a 150% word count increase from the 2012 policy directions. Social Enterprise UK recognises that Government has right to steer policy in a particular direction, but it seems curious that the drive to cut red tape appears to have limits. There is room perhaps for a lighter touch and fewer words in places.

Thank you for completing this response form.

Please return it by **midnight on Friday 12 August 2016** by emailing it to [blfpolicydirectionsconsultation@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:blfpolicydirectionsconsultation@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) or by printing and posting it to:

Big Lottery Fund Public Consultation  
OCSI Sector Support Team  
Cabinet Office  
4th Floor Blue Zone

# Office for Civil Society

1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Please see the main body consultation document for an explanation of what will happen after this consultation closes.