

Appendix II: How the Fund works

We are a non-departmental public body (or Arm's Length Body) accountable to Parliament via the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Our decisions about individual applications and policies are entirely independent of the government.

We are governed by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Simon Thurley CBE. Day-to-day activities are delegated to our executive team, chaired by Chief Executive Eilish McGuinness.

We operate under the name The National Lottery Heritage Fund. However, 'Trustees of The National Lottery Heritage Fund' is our legal body for the administration and supervision of all funds.

Funds are distributed under three different names:

- National Lottery Heritage Fund distributes government 'grant in aid' funding to UK heritage at risk of loss. This is a fund of last resort.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund distributes the heritage share of The National Lottery's funds for Good Causes.
- National Lottery Heritage Fund distributes non-Lottery funding, including 'grant in aid' and loans, to heritage organisations.

There are three central Directorates

Business Services

- Supports the delivery of our work by partnering with and providing expertise to other departments in our offices across the UK. The directorate comprises legal and governance, HR and people, IT, estates, finance and procurement departments. Harnish Hadani is the interim Executive Director of Business Services.

Business Delivery

- Supports our vision and mission by developing strategic partnerships, and engaging with and investing in heritage organisations across the UK at local level. The directorate oversees the distribution – on average – of at least £300m into the sector each year. Anne Jenkins is the interim Executive Director of Business Delivery.

Business Innovation & Insight

- Supports and champions the UK's heritage, and through work with colleagues and stakeholders, develops strategy, research and policy, and engaging marketing and communication campaigns, to showcase the transformative impact of National Lottery funding. Isabel Hunt is the Executive Director of Business Innovation & Insight.

There are also national and regional offices

- Our work covers all UK nations. There are three offices in England and one each in all other nations. Six directors lead our nations and areas across the UK.

Committees make funding decisions

- There are six committees. Three regional committees in England (London & South, Midlands & East, North) and three national committees in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are made up of local people passionate and knowledgeable about the heritage in their area and recruited through open advertisement.

What do committees do?

- Our committees make decisions on grant requests between £250,000 and £5million. They also recommend the funding priorities and provide a crucial local perspective to the Board. Our committees meet every three months to take decisions on grants in their local areas
- Requests for grants of up to £250,000 are discussed at monthly advisory meetings and a decision made by the local Head of Investment.

National Lottery Grants for Heritage under £5million

Decisions are made locally, dependent on the grant amount.

Up to £250,000

These decisions are made on a monthly basis at Area/Nation delegated decision meetings. These meetings are managed and chaired by Heads of Investment

.Between £250,000 and £5million

These decisions are made by committees in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and across England. The committees meet every three months

All other awards

These decisions are made by our Board of Trustees or by panels delegated by the Board. These include:

National Lottery Grants for Heritage over £5million award decisions made at Board meetings.

National Heritage Memorial Fund award decisions made at Board meetings.

Special awards and initiatives decisions made by panels delegated by the Board.

What we fund

We intentionally do not provide a definition of heritage. Heritage can be anything from the past that you value and want to pass on to future generations. From local parks and landscapes, to castles or community projects. We use six heritage sectors to categorise what we fund.

Areas, buildings and monuments: Looking after historic buildings, monuments and archaeology ensures that we can safeguard the places people love for future generations.

Community Heritage: Celebrating our community heritage can help bring people together, feel pride in where they live and save stories and traditions.

Cultures and memories: We fund projects which help to explore, save and celebrate the traditions, customs, skills and knowledge of different communities.

Industrial, maritime and transport: Our funding celebrates the innovative buildings, transport and technology that helped to shape the modern world.

Landscapes, parks and nature: The need to aid nature's recovery is urgent. That is why funding landscapes and nature is one of our key strategic funding priorities until 2024.

Museums, libraries and archives: Museums, libraries and archives tell the stories of our cultural heritage. Through their collections they help to give us a sense of place and identity.