

Sent via email

The Government wishes to restore the National Lottery to its original purpose. A priority element of this is the restoration of the shares of the National Lottery Distribution Fund to 20% for each of the good causes of sport, heritage and the arts.

I am seeking your views on this proposed change. The change will be effected by means of a Statutory Instrument made under Section 28 of the National Lottery etc. Act 1993. A draft is enclosed for your information.

I want to ensure that, in making the transition to the new Lottery shares, the levels of grant available to the voluntary and community sector are protected, so I propose to make the change in two stages:

On 1 April 2011, to increase the share apportionment for arts, heritage and sport to 18% each of the Lottery and reduce the Big Lottery Fund to 46%. Then on 1 April 2012, to increase the shares for arts, heritage and sport to 20% each of the Lottery and to reduce the apportionment share for the Big Lottery Fund to 40%.

I would be interested to have your views on the proposal and the timing for its implementation, and how the change is likely to affect you or the sector/s you represent. In particular I would be grateful for your views on the following:

- How would the change benefit you or the sector you represent?
- How would the proposed change disadvantage you or the sector you represent?
 - For Lottery distributors:
- What change, if any, would you expect to make to planned levels of grant budgets and payment forecasts.

For voluntary and community sector organisations:

- What impact would the changes have on member organisations' ability to deliver previously identified priorities or projects?
- In your view will the change have any adverse or positive impact on particular groups, taking into account race, gender, disability, age, faith/belief, sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic equality? How could impacts be avoided or mitigated. Please provide evidence if possible.

- I will arrange for an initial draft Impact Assessment to be placed on the DCMS website (link below) and would be grateful for any evidence to inform that.
- Do you have any other observations?

A list of the bodies I am consulting is annexed to this letter. If you think there are further bodies which may be particularly affected and with whom I should consult, please send details to the email address below. I will be making this letter, the draft Order, and a draft impact assessment available on the DCMS website shortly at http://www.dcms.gov.uk/consultations/7070.aspx

I would be grateful if you could respond, including any supporting material, within three months of the date of this letter (21 August 2010).

Please send all responses to: lottery@culture.gsi.gov.uk

I will consider the responses to the consultation very carefully. I anticipate being in a position to lay the draft Statutory Instrument before Parliament after the Summer recess and it will be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny under the affirmative resolution procedure.

JEREMY HUNT