



Spending Review and Equalities

The Government is wholly committed to protecting our culture, media and sport sectors, and we are determined to do everything we can to make sure we get through this difficult period without long term damage.

This has involved taking some difficult decisions but we are committed to fulfilling our legal obligations to promote equality and eliminate unlawful discrimination. We have sought to ensure that what we are proposing promotes fairness and ensures that everybody, wherever they live and whatever their background, has access to the very best this country has to offer both now and in the future.

The hosting of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012 provides a unique opportunity to celebrate our diverse culture and bring the entire country together. We are working with London 2012 organisers and the Mayor of London to ensure that our investment in the Games delivers significant equality and diversity benefits. For more detail see the Second Annual Report of the London 2012 Equality and Diversity Forum¹. We have already announced that we will be returning the Lottery to its original good causes - the third sector and arts, sport and heritage causes. We are also committed to equipping communities for the future; by getting the infrastructure in place for digital switchover and aiming for a decent level of broadband service for all.

We considered the potential impacts of any resource reduction on particular groups and the regions during the Spending Review process and, like other Government departments, submitted advice to HMT Treasury. However, many of the decisions about how to manage reductions in resource will be for our Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) so we are not able to give a detailed analysis of what impact will be on particular groups.

We do, however, recognise that some of the directions we have given bodies makes it likely that they will have to scale back some of the programmes targeted at particular demographic groups. For example, it is likely that our desire to minimise reductions in Whole Sports Plans means that Sport England will have to reduce funding for other partner organisations. Similarly, our desire to see the Arts Council maintain as much funding as possible for their grants to arts organisation, means that they will have to significantly reduce other spending, some of which has, for example, focused on supporting artists from minority groups.

There will be mitigating actions that ALBs can take through the way they operate the budgets which have seen smaller reductions, for example by making sure the Whole

¹ http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7397.aspx

Sport Plans take account of the needs of all parts of the population, or by continuing to look carefully at the balance of arts funding across different groups in society.

We will work with all of our ALBs over the coming period to look in more detail at how proposed reductions in spending impact on particular groups. We and our ALBs will also consider what realistic steps can be taken to mitigate any negative effects either by the department or its ALBs. DCMS will, of course, continue to undertake and publish formal equality impact assessments for new areas of policy as they emerge.