

Government Grants Definitions

Scheme and Awards	The grant data is collected at scheme (Programmes) and awards level where scheme is related to an overarching policy area and grant award is given out to meet the objectives of the grant scheme.
General grant	These are grants most closely related, in terms of process, to contract procurement. A sum of money awarded to an organisation in anticipation of it being applied for an agreed purpose. This purpose may be very specific, e.g. to fit a smoke alarm in an old person's house, or less specific, e.g. to promote fire safety among old people.
General Grant - Competed	Grant funding for which applications are invited and assessed against a pre-published set of criteria, with awards made based on the outcome of the application assessment.
General Grant - Un-competed	A grant that is awarded directly to an individual or organisation without a competition being run, e.g. where there is only one organisation which has the required knowledge and expertise to deliver a specific intervention.
General Grant - Criteria Based	These grants are usually not competed, as they are created with set qualifying criteria. As long as the applicant meets the required criteria, the recipient receives the funding, e.g. grants to assist those affected by flooding.
Formula grant	A formula grant is based on set criteria and is not competitive; grants awards are calculated using a specific formula. If the organisation or individual meets the specified criteria they are able to receive the grant. Examples of formula grants are student maintenance grants by the Education Funding Agency, which are administered according to a set formula.
Grant-in-aid	A sum of money provided to an organisation to be applied in general support for the objectives of that organisation. A payment by a government department - usually referred to as the "sponsor department" - to finance all or part of the costs of the body in receipt of the grant in aid. Grant in aid is paid where the government has decided, subject to Parliamentary controls, that the recipient body should operate at arm's length. The sponsor department does not therefore seek to impose the same detailed controls over day-to-day expenditure as it would over a grant.