

Grant-making overview

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve the quality of life throughout the UK. We do this by funding the charitable activities of organisations that have the ideas and ability to achieve change for the better. We take pride in supporting work that might otherwise be considered difficult to fund. During 2008 we committed around £22 million towards a wide range of work.

We channel our funding through two routes:

Main Fund

Our Main Fund distributes the majority of our funding. Responsive to shifts in demand, it supports work that focuses on the UK's cultural life, education and learning, the natural environment and enabling people who are disadvantaged to participate more fully in society. We are particularly interested in supporting work through the Main Fund that:

- > Addresses a *significant* gap in provision
- > Develops or strengthens good practice
- > Challenges convention or takes a risk in order to address a difficult issue
- > Tests out new ideas or practices
- > Takes an enterprising approach to achieving its aims
- > Sets out to influence policy or change behaviour more widely.

Strands and other funds

We also allocate funds to specific strands of work. These will change over time, but overall they express our desire to make a contribution in particular areas of interest. We currently have four funding strands and more information about them is on pages 10-11.

We have a small Development Fund that we use to investigate new ideas and approaches, for example testing ideas for possible future funding strands. Through this Fund we are supporting a pilot programme in Northern Ireland with The Henry Smith Charity to encourage the development of a strong and resilient voluntary sector and a new generation of leaders.

In our Finance Fund we are exploring the opportunities for alternatives to grant finance, building on our previous loans programme. As part of this exploration we made some grants during the year.

We also have a TASK (Trustees' Areas of Special Knowledge) fund to support organisations known to individual Trustees.

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2008	Value (£)	No of projects	Average grant size	64,505
Main Fund			Eligible Main Fund applications received	4,824
Arts, culture, heritage	4,359	70		
Citizenship or community development	3,017	61	Successful Main Fund applications	267
Education	1,815	34	Full grant listings are set out on pages 21 – 30	
Environment	3,823	45		
Human rights, conflict resolution	1,615	21		
Prevention or relief of poverty	1,023	21	Grant-making by country	
Other charitable purposes	1,571	15	£ per head of population	
Main Fund total	17,223	267	Scotland	£0.31
			Northern Ireland	£0.23
			Wales	£0.22
			England	£0.17
			UK-wide	£0.10 ^{††}
Strands				
Biodiversity strand	615	7		
Food strand	642	9		
Museum & Heritage Collections strand	583	13	[†] Refers to additional support (e.g. consultancy and business planning support) given to grant-holders.	
New Approaches to Learning strand	1,117	19	^{††} Grants covering two or more countries.	
Strands total	2,957	48		
Development Fund				
(inc Northern Ireland pilot)	360	2		
Finance Fund	400	3		
TASK grants	990	107		
Grants Plus[†]	266	n/a		
Total	22,196	427		