



Ms Blackmann

By email: request-61742-870dcda4@whatdotheyknow.com

8 March 2011

Ref: FOI002-0027

Dear Ms Blackmann,

I refer to your email of 10 February 2011 in which you requested information from the Big Lottery Fund ("BIG") under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA").

Your request is restated below along with our response.

1. *Is the Big Lottery Fund currently paying money to any trade union, either through donations or contracts?*
2. *Has the Big Lottery Fund paid any money to trade unions or held any contract with a trade union since 1997?*
3. *If so, in what form has the Big Lottery Fund given money to, or is giving money to, trade unions?*
4. *Which trade unions have received or are receiving money through donations or contracts?*
5. *How much money has been paid to each of these trade unions, either in donations or contracts, and when was the money paid?*

BIG does not and has not paid money to a trade union through donations. BIG does not hold and has not held a contract with a trade union.

BIG came into being as an administrative body on 1 June 2004 and was established formally on 1 December 2006, through the legal merger of the Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund, and the transfer of residual activities and assets from the Millennium Commission. The National Lottery etc Act 1993 as amended by the National Lottery Acts 1998 and 2006, enables us to award grants to projects supporting health, education, environment and charitable purposes.

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A 0845 039 0204
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Interim UK Chair
Anna Southall

UK Chief Executive
Peter Wanless CB

We are committed to bringing real improvements to communities and to the lives of people most in need



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Trade unions may have received grant funding from BIG and its legacy bodies since 1997 if the projects were for one or more of the aforementioned purposes. However, our grant management database does not record whether a funded organisation is a trade union. We are, therefore, unable to extract information about grants awarded to trade unions.

Since January 1997, BIG and its legacy bodies have awarded over 230,000 grants. To comply with your request we would need to manually check each grant award since 1997 to determine if the organisation funded is a trade union. Accordingly, we are applying section 12(1) of the FOIA to this part of the request.

Section 12(1) states:

12(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

The appropriate limit is set out in The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The appropriate limit for BIG is £450 (18 hours for one member of staff). Checking each grant awarded since 1 January 1997 would take one member of staff a substantial amount of time more than the 18 hours prescribed.

We may be able to provide you with some information if you modified your request. For example, if you provided us with a list of trade unions, we will be able to confirm if any have received grant funding. Alternatively, you can search for grants awarded by BIG and its legacy bodies by using the grant search tools on the following websites:

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk
www.awardsforall.org.uk

6. *How much money does the Big Lottery Fund expect to give each trade union this year?*

This information is not held.

If you have any further queries regarding the FOIA please contact me at the address below. Your reference is: **FOI002-0027**. It would be helpful if you could quote this reference in any future correspondence.

If you are unhappy with the level of service you have received in relation to your request, you may ask for an internal review. If this is the case, contact me and I will arrange for the decision to be reviewed.



If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Punim Anda".

Punim Anda
Head of Information Governance
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