

The Government is consulting with the public over what types of arts, film, heritage and sporting projects should receive lottery funding after 2009.

Previously, many gliding clubs have received lottery funding and it is important that we make our views known so that this source of funding may be retained.

More information and an online version of the consultation form are available at <http://www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk>. This also gives details of how to obtain a paper copy of the consultation documentation, if required. The consultation document is quite short and not difficult to read. However, rather than read all the information provided, you may wish simply to read the consultation website home page and sections 1-3 (sport section) and section 4 of the consultation document.

The BGA would like as many as possible to respond to the consultation. You can respond as clubs or as individuals.

The next section of this document provides sample answers. Rather than copy them verbatim, you are advised to use them, if possible, as a basis to develop your own answers. Past experience shows that multiple boiler-plated responses may be viewed as a single response.

There is a 500 character limit on answers submitted on-line. This limit is strictly enforced – you will not be able to submit longer answers.

**Please note that the closing date for return of questionnaires is February 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you for your interest.

*Lottery money has provided a fantastic legacy of sporting facilities from playground to podium including many swimming pools, playing fields, sports halls and athletics tracks. We believe it has also been key to improving significantly the performance of British athletes at the Olympic Games, helping our athletes compete to the best of their ability and win medals for Britain.*

**Q4a - Do you agree?**

The Lottery has funded a wide range of sports, helping maximise public participation.

Lottery grants to elite Olympic athletes has allowed Exchequer funds to be released to non-Olympic sports. This has helped many sports and athletes from grass roots to elite.

The spin off benefits that sport provides - improved mental, physical and emotional health, community participation and inclusiveness - are provided by all forms of sport, however physically energetic, at all standards of play and at all levels of engagement.

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*We propose to continue the policies for the sport good cause but highlight in Section 3 a number of new areas that, if money were available, might be addressed.*

**Q4b - What are your views?**

The elite should be funded – not only in Olympic sports.

Equally, local clubs need support to raise participation and identify and nurture the future elite.

Sports Lottery funds must not be used in projects that primarily benefit health, education etc. Other funds exist for this.

Existing sports clubs and facilities indicate community interest and activity. Supporting these is preferable to funding new facilities, unless real evidence of demand exists.

Funding diverted to Olympic athletes and facilities must return to previous allocations post 2012.

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*We believe that all areas should have access to money within these good causes and that while the Lottery should continue to address need where appropriate, this should not be the overriding aim?*

**Q5 - Do you agree that all areas should have access to money within these good causes but that the Lottery should continue to address need where appropriate?**

Assuming that, by 'address need', the consultation refers to communities which are in some way deprived or less well off than others:

Other parts of the Lottery fund are available for helping the needy. Sports funding should be clearly directed to developing and supporting sport for sport's sake. If other benefits accrue, this is to be welcomed. Such benefits should not however be the over-riding factor in making funding decisions.

Grants for sports projects should be assessed on a basis of the quality of the project and the sporting outcome likely to result.

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*Since 1998, arts and film, heritage and sport have each had an equal share of 16.67% of Lottery money.*

**Q6 - Do you agree that should continue?**

Equality of funding for sport, arts & film, and heritage is a reasonably well established principle. However it might be valid to assess what proportion of the population enjoys the three areas of activity, either as participant or as spectator, in order to make adjustments to the proportions of funding to each sector.

These three sectors all previously enjoyed a larger slice of Lottery funding, at a time when Lottery income was rather higher than it is now. Any attempt to reduce their share yet further should be strongly resisted.

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*We believe that Lottery money should not be allowed to become a substitute for funding that would normally fall to mainstream Government spending. However, the Lottery can still support things with recognised strong public support and Lottery grants can enhance mainstream public services.*

**Q7 - Do you agree?**

The principle that Lottery funding is used to provide extra resources, rather than replace existing government funding, is extremely important. Any attempt by government to 'poach' Lottery funds should be strongly resisted.

It is equally important that sports that benefit from Exchequer funding should continue to do so, provided that their remit, level of performance and provision of sporting benefits remain unchanged. If Lottery funds reduce, lottery funded projects should not be allowed to take over Exchequer funding previously allocated to other sports.

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*Decisions on which projects to fund should be made independently by Lottery distributors. But it is necessary for UK Government, and where appropriate, the devolved administrations in conjunction with the UK Government, to set an overall framework of control. This should be at a high level only.*

**Q8 - Do you agree?**

Any funding framework should be set by those with suitable expertise, rather than at a political level. The guidelines should be fair, open, and agreed after consultation with sport governing bodies and other expert authorities. Consultation should allow time for informed debate and comment, so all affected can contribute. Once agreed, the policies should be introduced after adequate notice and should be maintained for a considerable period of time, allowing governing bodies, clubs and others affected to plan activities with more certainty than has been the case in recent years.