

SPENDING DIRECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND UNDER SECTION 22(5) (C) OF THE DORMANT BANK AND BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNTS ACT 2008.

Under Section 22 of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008, hereafter known as the “Act”, in exercising any of its functions under the Act, the Big Lottery Fund (now known as the National Lottery Community Fund) shall comply with directions given to it under that section.

The Department of Finance, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 22(5)(c) of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008 and having consulted with the National Lottery Community Fund as required under Section 22(7) of the Act, hereby give the following directions to the National Lottery Community Fund in relation to Northern Ireland expenditure under the Act.

- A Scheme to distribute Dormant Accounts in Northern Ireland should be established as soon as possible.
- The National Lottery Community Fund should prepare and adopt a strategic plan for Northern Ireland as set out in Schedule 3 Part 1 of the Act.
- The National lottery Community Fund shall consult on the contents of the Strategic Action Plan in advance of laying in the Assembly as set out in Schedule 3 Part 1 Paragraph 4 Sub-Section 6 (b) of the Act.
- The Scheme should be made available to benefit the third sector in Northern Ireland, through projects/work primarily delivered by Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations to increase capacity, grow resilience and encourage sustainability.
- The Scheme should ensure that projects/work funded demonstrate an equitable geographical representation across Northern Ireland.
- Lessons learnt from the distribution of Dormant Account funds elsewhere in the UK, should be reflected in the Northern Ireland Scheme where possible.
- The Department will not restrict the use or distribution of the Scheme, however, the principle that dormant account money should not be used to fund projects or aspects of projects that would normally attract statutory funding.
- In respect of delivery models these could mean, but are not limited to, an Investment Loan Model for more established organisations, a grant/ loan hybrid model or a more traditional grant style model to support grass roots community organisations to develop capacity and build resilience.
- As allowed under the Dormant Accounts Act, the National Lottery Community Fund may deliver the Scheme in its entirety or work with a third party. Any third party should be appointed in line with Section 25 (1) of the Act and adhere to the conditions thereafter as set out in the Act.
- A condition of all funding distributed from the Scheme is that successful applicants must acknowledge the use of Dormant Accounts funding, using the agreed branding for the Dormant Account Scheme for Northern Ireland.
- The distribution of funding under the Dormant Account Scheme will be limited to projects located within Northern Ireland as stipulated in Section 22 5(c) of the Act.
- Reporting and Accounting arrangements should be as set out in Schedule 3, Part 3, of the Act.
- The Scheme should contribute to the draft Programme for Government Outcomes Delivery Plan and its successor where possible.