



Industrial Communities Alliance

The all-party association campaigning on behalf of local authorities in the industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales

National Secretariat, 1 Regent Street, Barnsley S70 2EG

Tel: 01226 200768 www.industrialcommunitiesalliance.org.uk Email: natsec@ccc-alliance.org.uk

Rt Hon Nadine Dorries MP
Secretary of State
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

By email to: secretary.statesoffice@dcms.gov.uk

29 March 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Lottery funding

I'm writing as National Chair of the Industrial Communities Alliance, the all-party association of local authorities in the older industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales.

Our attention has been drawn again to Lottery funding, which I'm aware falls within your areas of responsibility, by a brief but important commitment on page 217 of the Levelling Up White Paper:

"The UK Government will.....explore further collaboration between lottery funders for arts, heritage, sport and community projects within the UK to ensure that £1.7bn in National Lottery funding every year reaches the people and places that need it most."

This is a commitment our membership strongly welcomes. We wonder, however, just how it will be delivered and would welcome your guidance on the government's thinking.

By way of background, I should explain that on Lottery funding the Alliance (and its predecessor the Coalfield Communities Campaign) has a long history. Early on in the life of the Lottery we noticed that funding was going disproportionately to prestige projects in the big cities, especially London, to the detriment of older industrial towns and communities. Over the years we've undertaken substantial statistical analyses of Lottery grants to demonstrate this point. We've also developed proposals on what needs to be done to generate a fairer distribution of funding.

As part of our efforts, we've worked with a number of your predecessors as Culture Secretary, and with the Lottery Distributors. Your officials may indeed recall initiatives such as *Brass for Barnsley* and *Dosh for Donny*, both conceived as pilots to raise the funding going to places that were otherwise missing out.

There is substantial experience and knowledge of localities that we can bring to bear – though, in fairness, not a recent update on the statistics on the geography of Lottery funding, which is something your department might usefully consider undertaking.

This may therefore be a good moment for your officials to renew a dialogue with our National Secretariat, and perhaps to explain a little more about the government's plans to ensure that funding reaches the places and people that need it most. In the first instance they might wish to contact our National Director, Steve Fothergill, via the email address on the letterhead.

As the Levelling Up White Paper was primarily the responsibility of DLUHC, I'm copying this letter to Secretary of State Michael Gove MP.

I look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully to building collaboration to deliver our shared aspirations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Cunliffe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cllr Keith Cunliffe
National Chair