

Annual Review

Volume of business

This year has been a busy year in terms of the volume of applications received, and shows a significant increase (13%) on last year. The number of initial enquiries is down so it maybe that more potential applicants are using the website, although there are between two to five telephone calls to the office each day. The number of refusals increased which reflects the overall increase in applications.

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Enquiries (by post and email)	389	485	465	252	190
Applications	768	797	1003	815	935
New grants committed	126	131	140	127	131
Applications withdrawn	0	1	1	3	4
Refusals	642	665	862	685	749

Length of grants

The table below shows a remarkable consistency over the past five years - remarkable as the Foundation does not set itself any targets in respect of whether grants are single grant or for two or three years. However, there was an increase in the number of three-year awards made this year.

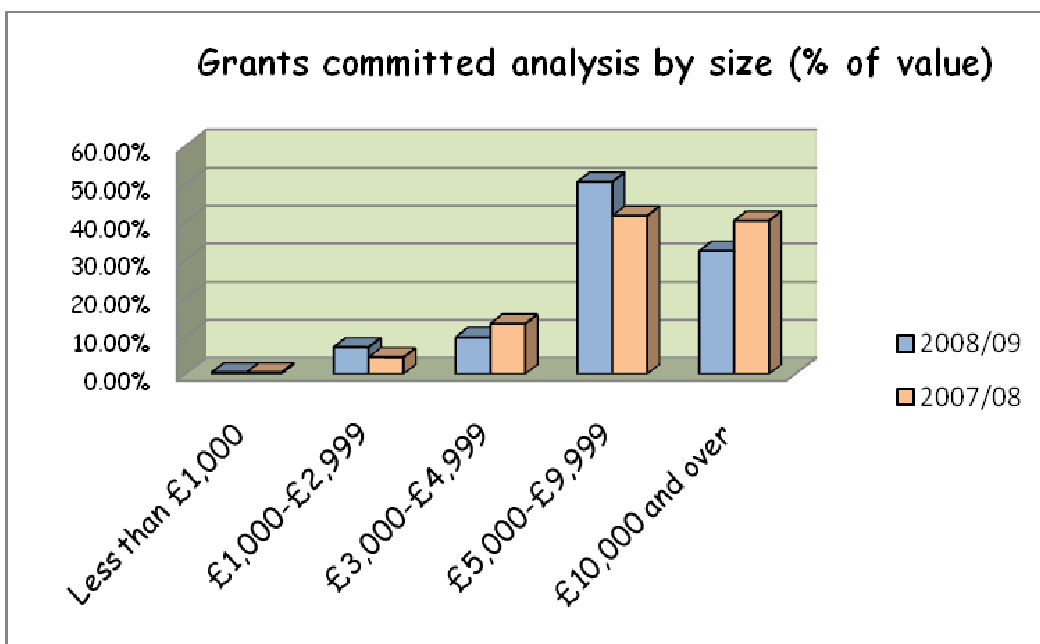
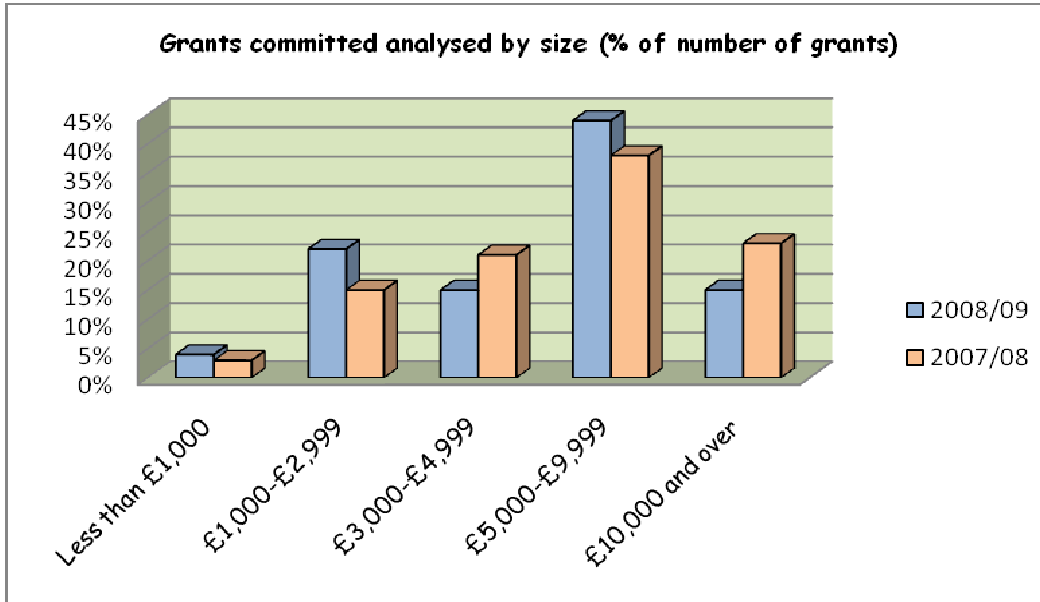
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
One-off grants	83 (66%)	89 (68%)	92 (66%)	85 (67%)	83 (63%)
Two year grants	30 (24%)	24 (18%)	31 (22%)	22 (17%)	21 (16%)
Three year grants	13 (10%)	18 (14%)	17 (12%)	19 (15%)	27 (21%)
Four year grants	-	-	-	1 (1%)	-
Total no of grants	126	131	140	127	131

First grant from this Foundation?

The Foundation tries to keep a balance between helping organisations which it has previously funded, and those which are new to it. This year 42 (32%) of the grants committed went to organisations which had previously received funding from the Foundation. This figure is slightly above previous years when the percentage has regularly been between 25 and 30%.

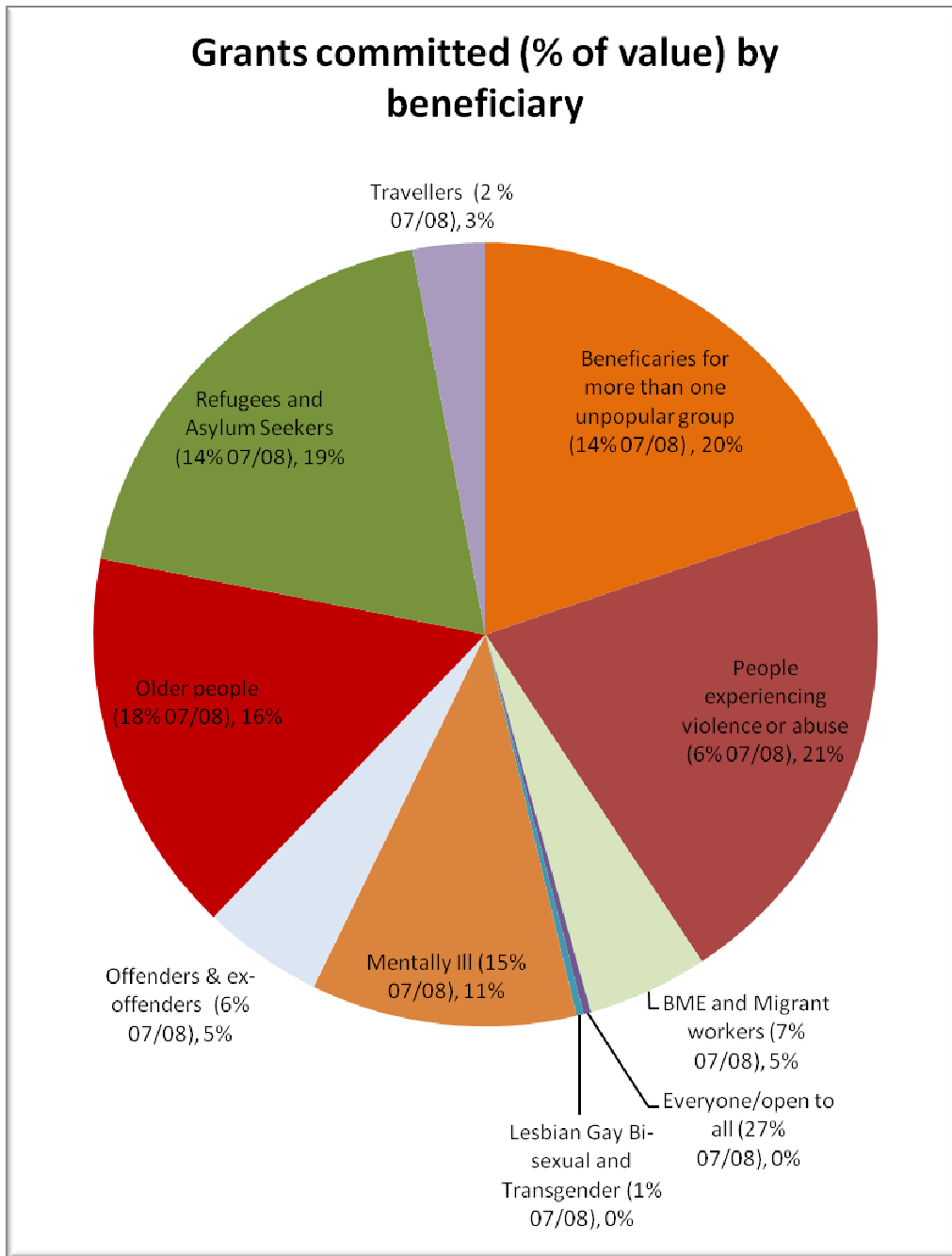
Size

This year there has been some change in the proportion of smaller grants committed, particularly at the £1,000-£2,499 level. The tables below show that more grants were committed at the £5,000-£9,999 level than in the previous year and there was a fall of grants being awarded £10,000 and over.



(Table excludes grants awarded through closed programme)

Beneficiary

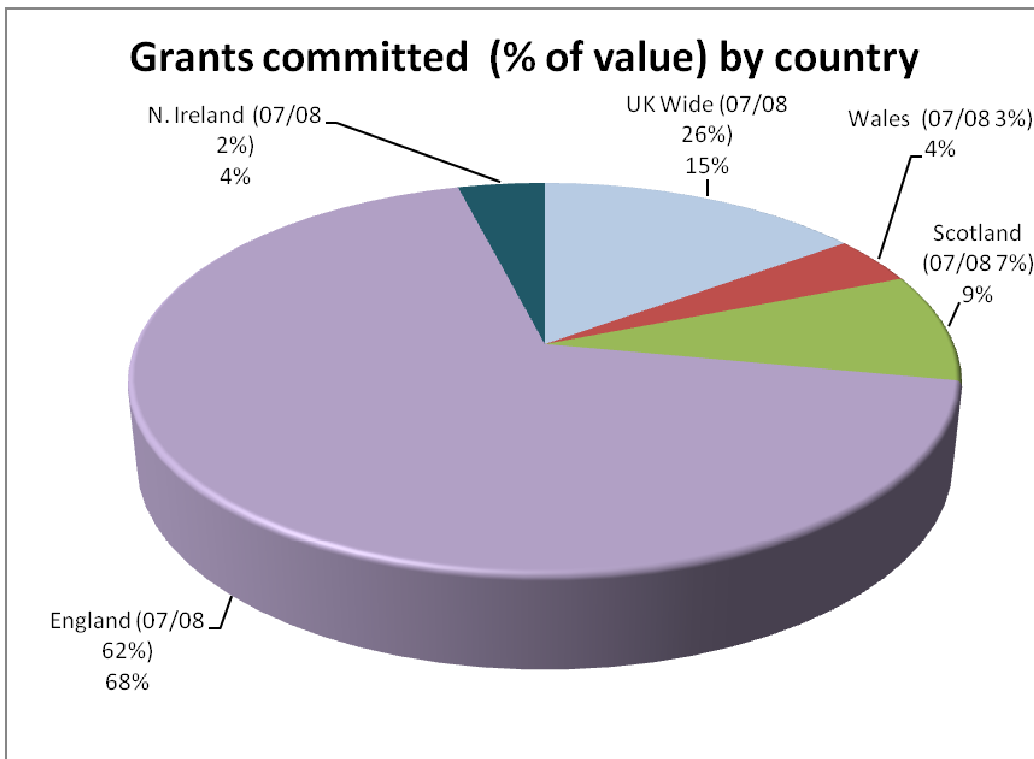


The table above shows a fairly consistent proportion of grants to the different beneficiary groups. The most significant increase is in grants to projects working with people experiencing violence or abuse, and refugees and asylum seekers. Also, a number of grants have been for work with more than one beneficiary group which will include work with BME groups and migrant workers and older people.

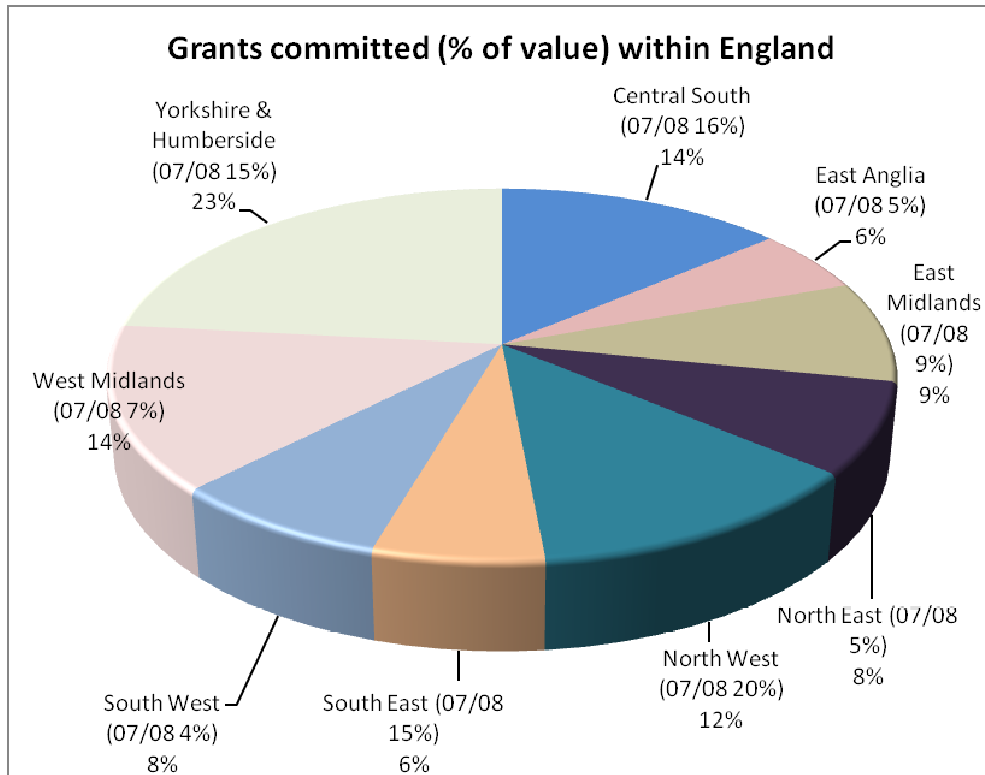
The drop in grants everyone/open to all reflects one large grant awarded last year under a closed programme.

Area

The distribution of grants between countries remains remarkably similar from one year to the next. The largest variation was a drop in grants with UK impact mainly due to one large grant within our closed programme last year. Scotland and Northern Ireland also received a higher value of grants this year than previously.

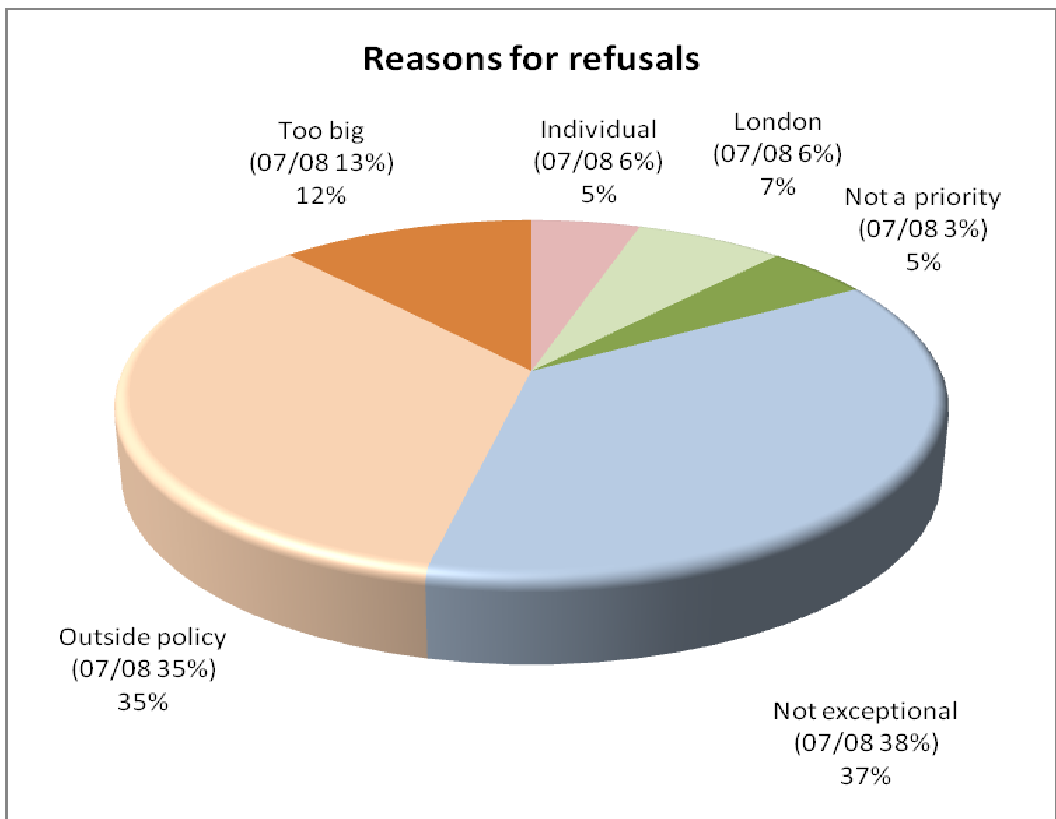


Regionally within England, four regions showed increases in the number of grants being awarded with Yorkshire and Humberside and West Midlands showing the biggest increases followed by the North East and South West. Grants awarded in the South East had the largest percentage fall. There is no particular reason for the changes as the Foundation does not have any set targets on the distribution of funds but perhaps it does reflect the quality of some of the applications being received.



Refusals

This year 749 applications were refused out of a total of 935 - 80%. This may seem a depressing statistic, but it is also a misleading one. The table below shows nearly 64% of applications were outside our policy for one reason or another. Our guidelines are quite explicit that we do not fund in London, nor make grants for individuals. They are also specific about the size of organisation we fund and what our beneficiary priorities are. It is our impression that applications are being sent out without sufficient research of our guidelines or as an undifferentiated mailshot without any prior research about the priorities of particular foundations.



Success rate

The overall success rate was 28% for applications that met our criteria for funding.