

Annual Review

Volume of business

This year has been busy year in terms of the volume of applications received, although down on last year. The number of initial enquiries is also down so it maybe that more potential applicants are using the website. The number of refusals also fell which reflects the drop in applications to a level comparable with 2006/07.

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Enquiries (by post and email)	431	389	485	465	252
Applications	755	768	797	1003	815
New grants committed	126	126	131	140	127
Applications withdrawn	0	0	1	1	3
Refusals	629	642	665	862	685

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.

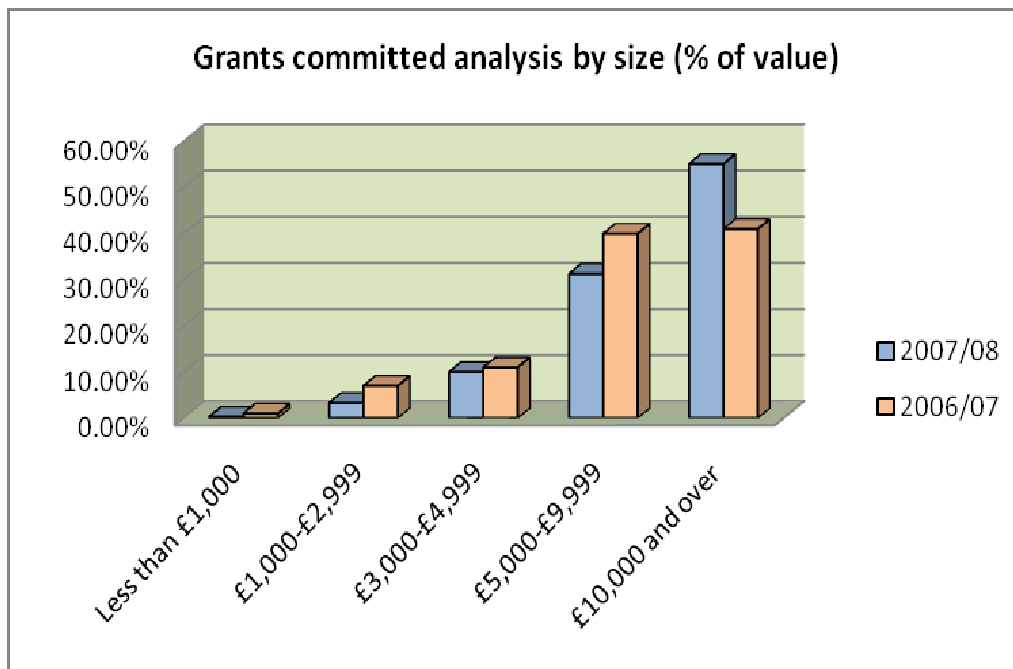
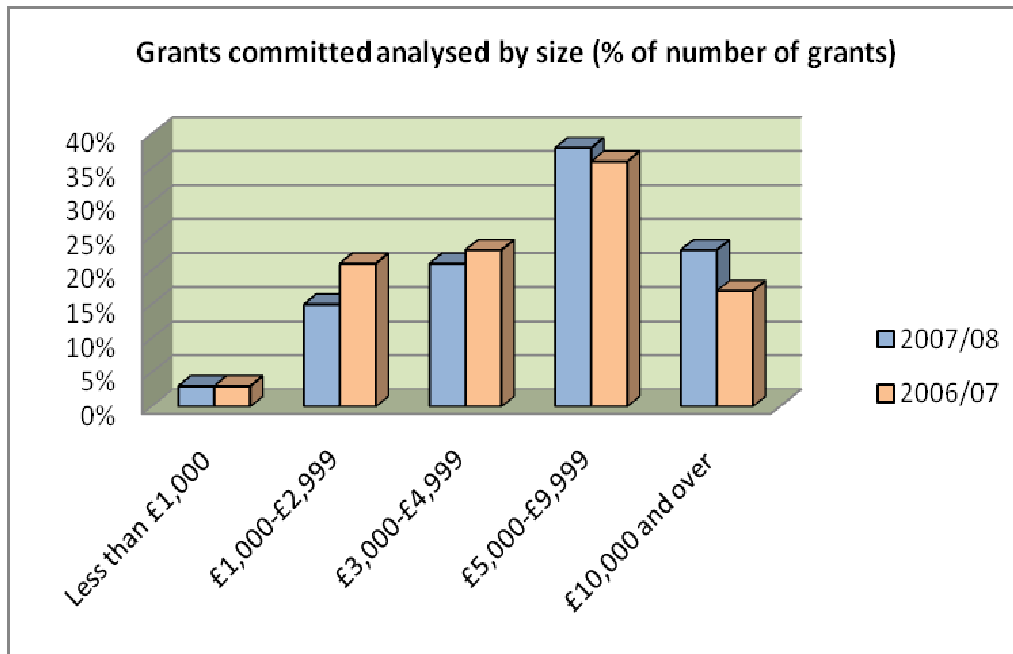
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
One-off grants	79 (63%)	83 (66%)	89 (68%)	92 (66%)	85 (67%)
Two year grants	30 (24%)	30 (24%)	24 (18%)	31 (22%)	22 (17%)
Three year grants	17 (13%)	13 (10%)	18 (14%)	17 (12%)	19 (15%)
Four year grants	-	-	-	-	1 (1%)
Total no of grants	126	126	131	140	127

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 34 (26%) of the grants committed went to organisations which had previously received funding from the Foundation. This figure is very similar to previous years when the percentage has regularly been between 25 and 30%.

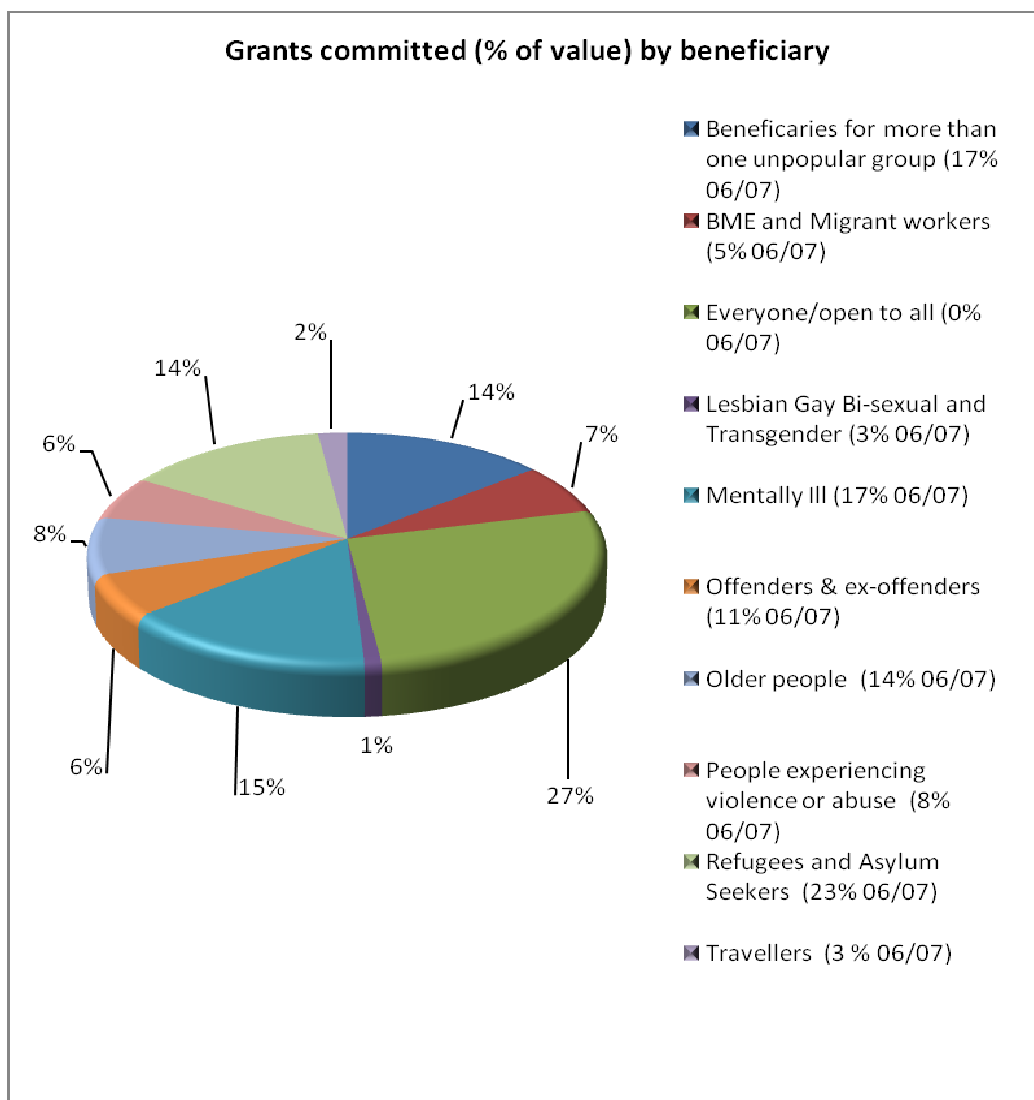
Size

This year there has been little change in the proportion of smaller grants committed, whether analysed by the number of grants or by value but the tables below show that more grants were committed at the £10,000-£15,000 level than in the previous year.



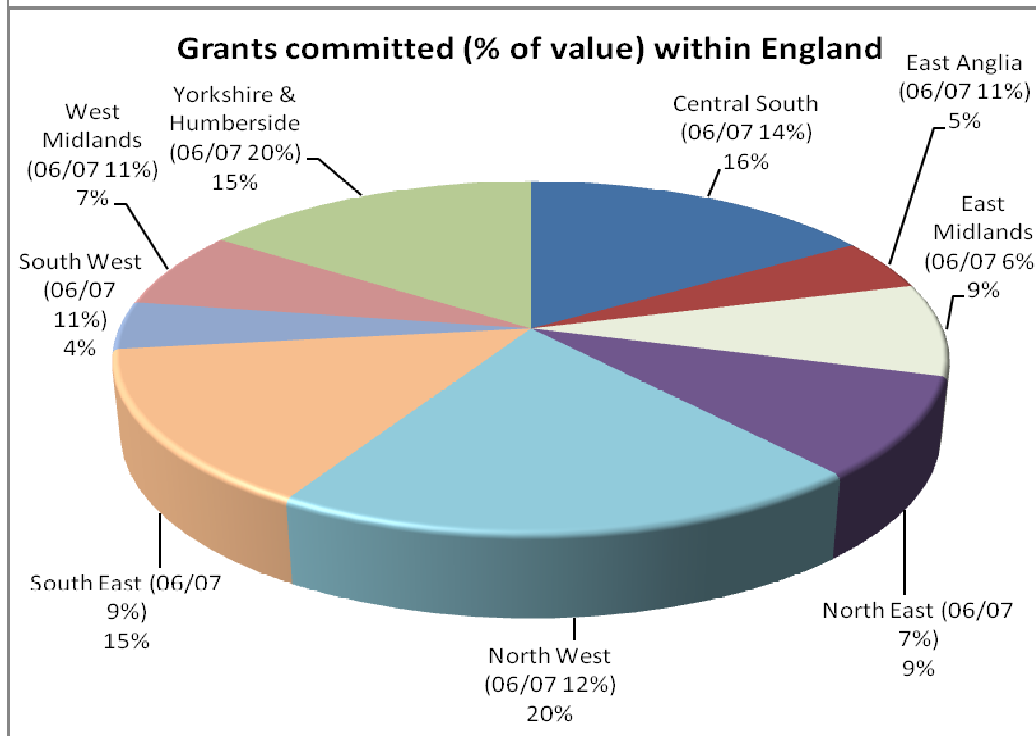
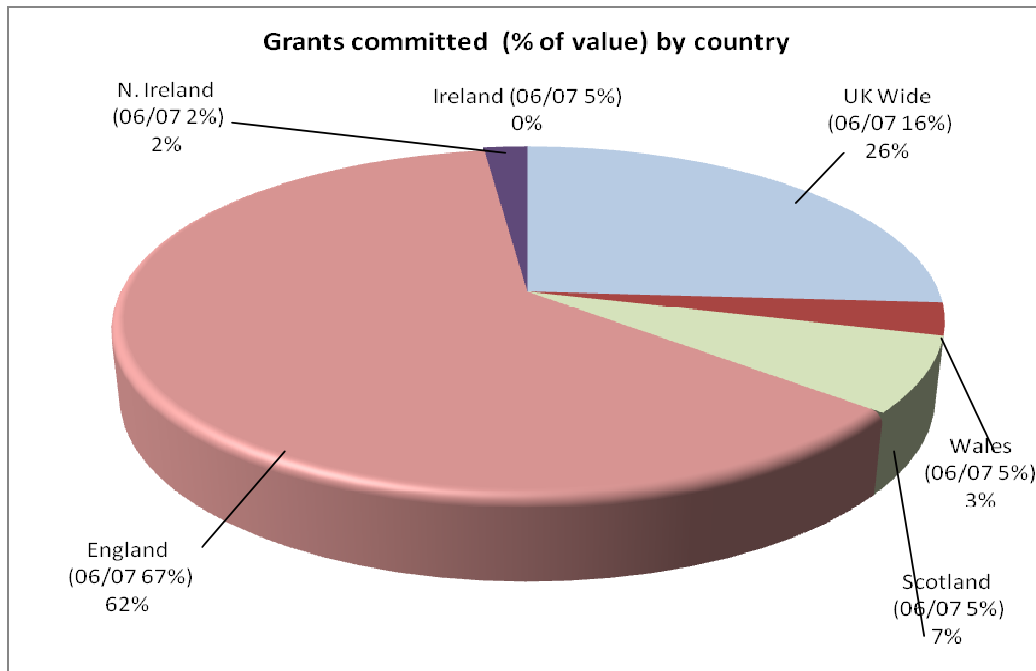
Beneficiary

The table below shows a fairly consistent proportion of grants to the different beneficiary groups. The most significant increase is in grants to projects working with beneficiaries from more than one of our priority groups. For example , a number of grants have been for work with older people.



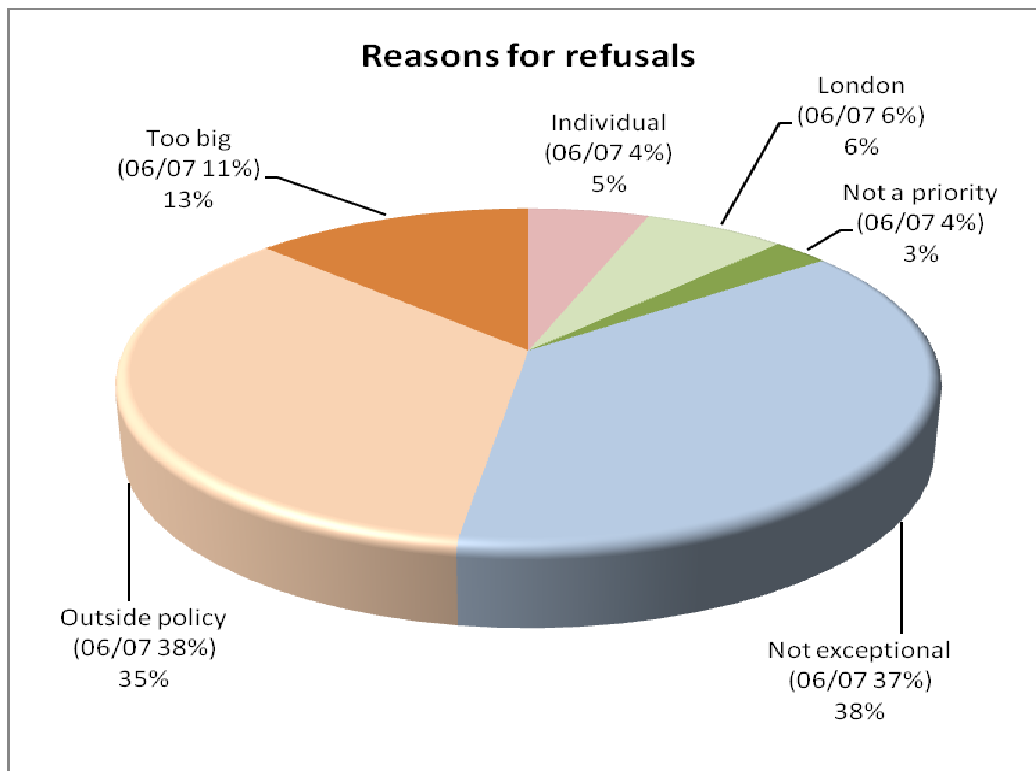
Area

The distribution of grants between countries remains remarkably similar from one year to the next. The largest variation is in grants with UK wide impact mainly due to one large grant within our closed programme. Scotland also received a higher number of grants this year than previously. Last year there was no grant in the Republic as the programme closed.



Refusals

This year 685 applications were refused out of a total of 815 - 84%. This may seem a depressing statistic, but it is also a misleading one. The table below shows nearly 60% 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 as an undifferentiated mailshot without any prior research about the priorities of particular foundations.



Success and failure rate

The overall success rate, as mentioned in the previous paragraph, was around 16%. But the more interesting figures are those relating to applications which were within our priorities. Do different beneficiary groups get treated equally? Do they have an equal chance of success or does the Foundation have any bias of which it may be unaware?