

[Home](#) > [Government](#) > [Government efficiency, transparency and accountability](#)

Collection

Grants Management Function

The role of the Grants Management Function, the Centre of Excellence service offer, and the Functional Standard for Grants.

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[Cabinet Office](#)

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18 May 2026

Added a link to the page: 2026-2029 Strategy for Government Grants

3 January 2024

Refreshed the body text of the page.

29 September 2023

Added a link to the following pages:

2023-2025 Government Strategy for Grants Management,
Government grants data and statistics

Renamed the Grants Applicant Programme to Grants Efficiency Programme

13 March 2023

Updated to reflect the change from Department for International Trade to Department for Business and Trade

10 May 2022

Updated to include details and links to the Find a Grant link beta and the Government Grants Community.

19 January 2022

Added information about the Grants Applicant Programme, a new online grants applicant service.

31 March 2021

Updated information on grants data and statistics to the latest publication.

5 March 2021

Sections updated include: 'What we do', 'Government grants landscape', 'Grants Centre of Excellence' and 'Spotlight'. Also, updated to include more recent figures of grant spend.

27 February 2020

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Contents

- [About grants](#)
- [What we do](#)
- [Government grants statistics and data](#)
- [The Functional Standard for Grants](#)
- [Grants Centre of Excellence](#)
- [Spotlight](#)
- [Grants Efficiency Programme](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Documents](#)

About grants

Grant funding is a common funding option for government, to support policy objectives in areas such as education, research, civil society and innovation and abroad through international aid projects. Government grants amounted to £160 billion in 2024 to 2025.

Grants can be used for many purposes including:

- supporting government policies such as health and employment
- funding research, development, and innovation

- providing financial subsidy.

The [2026-2029 Strategy for Government Grants](#) outlines government's priorities for grants administration over the next two years.

What we do

The Government Grants Management Function works to maximise all grant outcomes and minimise risk, delivering the greatest benefit to the economy and citizens.

Government grants statistics and data

In line with the government's transparency agenda, the GGMF collates and publishes the [Government Grants Register](#) to show how public funds are spent through grants. It is the most comprehensive view of grant spending across government and classified as an Official Statistics. The data is accompanied by a statistics bulletin providing context to the data, an overview of grant spending and guidance notes on how the data has been compiled.

The Functional Standard for Grants

The Grants Management Function has developed a [Functional Standard](#). The Standard describes the responsibilities and accountabilities of the Cabinet Office Grants Management Function and the associated functions in departments and grant making arm's length bodies. The Standard also incorporates and expands upon the 'Minimum Standards for Government General Grants' which were published in 2016.

Grants Centre of Excellence

The Cabinet Office Grants Management Function is the recognised Centre of Excellence for grants and we support grant making in central departments and arm's length bodies through a number of forums. These include:

- [The Grants Centre of Excellence Digital Service](#), which is a central store for guidance, templates, toolkits, and training on grant management. Those working in grant making departments or arm's length bodies can easily self-register for access.
- The Grants Academy, which develops and hosts training modules to support grant

makers in building capability in grant making. Our learning offer is detailed on our digital service and available on [Civil Service Learning \(CSL\)](#).

- The Complex Grants Advice Panel, which is an independent, cross-government expert panel coordinated and chaired by the Cabinet Office. The Panel provides independent advice in relation to government grant spend that is higher risk.
- The Grants Best Practice Network, which brings together colleagues working with government grants in quarterly meetings to share learnings.

Spotlight

Spotlight, government's online automated due-diligence tool, complements existing pre- and post-award checks and highlights areas of risk to inform grant-making decisions.

Spotlight speeds up initial pre-award checks by processing thousands of applications in minutes replacing manual analysis that, typically, can take at least two hours per application. The tool also provides post-award notifications, generated in real-time, if the applicant's circumstances should change.

Spotlight saves time, improves decision making and reduces the risk of fraud.

Spotlight is available across all government departments and arms' length bodies. For more information, email spotlight@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

The Spotlight video below explains how the tool works and the due-diligence checks available:

[Spotlight - automated due-diligence tool with enhanced checks](#)

Grants Efficiency Programme

We have created new digital services for accessing government support to save taxpayers over £200 million - Find a Grant and Apply for a Grant.

These UK-wide digital services form a single portal for organisations applying for government grants and, if used to their full potential, could save millions through efficiencies and fraud prevention. Currently most departments that provide grant funding have their own services, which duplicate each other and can often be hard for external organisations to find and access.

The first of its kind [Find a Grant](#) service offers a free central place on [GOV.UK](#) for business, individuals and organisations to find and apply for government grants. It is now mandatory for departments and ALBs to advertise their eligible grants on Find a Grant. The services also enable government grant-makers to step up due diligence and fraud prevention, through an interface with the Spotlight tool. Reflecting the government's priority to boost economic growth across the whole of the UK and levelling up, the UK-wide service increases the accessibility of grant applications and encourages competition for funding from a wider range of applications. The pilot has already seen an increase in funding awarded to beneficiaries in the north of England.

Find a Grant not only builds and hosts grant adverts: we have also built an application form builder to create tailored application forms - [Apply for a Grant](#). Seamlessly integrated with Find a Grant, grant administrators can simply add their own questions for each grant scheme, while also benefiting from universal mandatory questions for essential due diligence checks.

Having secured additional funding, we recently embarked on a two-year programme to pilot an end-to-end managed service, which is technology-enabled and aims to offer departments a competitive alternative for the

administration of grants which do not require specialist handling.

The Government Grants Managed Service programme is conducting a Discovery to gather sufficient insight to determine the feasibility of a centralised service and its target operating model. The aim will be to design a service that will deliver efficiencies and free up specialists in departments to focus on policy, informed by richer and more accurate data. Similarly to Find a Grant, the service will also aim to provide a simpler and more consistent user experience for grant applicants.

Contacts

For any further queries about the Grants Management Function or government grants, email us at grants-management-function@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. Please note - we are not directly involved in the administration of government grants schemes. Queries relating to specific schemes should be directed to the relevant government department or arms length body.

Documents

2023-2025 Government Strategy for Grants Management

29 September 2023 Policy paper

Government grants data and statistics

24 March 2026 Collection

Government Functional Standard GovS 015: Grants

15 September 2026 Standard

Codes of conduct for suppliers and grant recipients

20 June 2023 Guidance

[↑ Contents](#)

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[Environment and countryside](#)

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[Money and tax](#)

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[Departments](#)

[News](#)

[Guidance and regulation](#)

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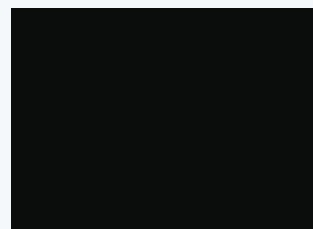
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