



Equality and Human Rights Commission

Grants scheme consultation

Name of participant: OCPAS

These are the recorded submissions for Session 1. Only sections to which responses have been recorded are listed below.

Document section - Role of grants

Question: D1. Do you have any general comments on the proposed grants programme?

Your response:

The Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland (OCPAS) welcomes the chance to contribute our views on the proposed grants programme. In September 2008 we launched the first equality and diversity strategy for public appointments in Scotland. We believe the strategy can make a significant contribution to improving equality of opportunity in public life. However, while the strategy has been widely welcomed and supported, its success will inevitably depend on the funding available to implement it. While we recognise the crucial role the EHRC grants programme will play in funding many excellent initiatives in the voluntary sector, we would urge the EHRC to consider how suitable projects in the public sector (where no other public funding has been made available) might also be supported by the programme.

Document section - Focus and length of funding

Question: D2. Do you consider that the outcomes-based approach to funding is appropriate for both Strategic and Project Grants?

Your response:

Yes.

Question: D4. Do you have any comments on our proposals to fund a mixture of longer term projects for strategic work, combined with short term funding for local and/or smaller-scale projects?

Your response:

This would seem a sensible approach, enabling a variety of projects and organisations to benefit.

Document section - Ongoing involvement

Question: D7. How can we improve communications and partnership working with funded groups at local levels?



Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland

Your response:

From our own experience, it has proved extremely valuable to have a named contact within the Commission with whom to liaise about a particular project. With this approach, the Commission is able to allocate a staff contact with expertise and seniority commensurate with a particular project; the partner organisation benefits through building an ongoing relationship with one individual who is familiar with their project, its background and how it is progressing. Naturally, depending on the number of projects likely to be supported by the Commission, this approach may not be feasible for all of them. However, while some organisations and projects will need substantial support and contact, others may need little.

Document section - Other key issues

Question: D8. What are the other key issues which you would like the Commission to consider in developing its funding programme?

Your response:

Further to our earlier general comment, we would welcome clarification about the Commission's position on funding public sector projects through its grants programme.