



Email bulletin - 23 October 2007

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**Northern Rock Foundation** have been forced to slash grants by up to £9 million following the tribulations faced by the Northern Rock Building Society over recent weeks. This represents almost a third of its grant giving. The cuts will mainly affect new initiatives which will be postponed or cancelled. Virgin, which is leading a consortium bidding for the ailing mortgage lender, has pledged to continue the 15% of profits which go to the Foundation. Northern Rock Foundation is a substantial funder of voluntary activity in the North East.

[http://www.nr-foundation.org.uk/important\\_message.html](http://www.nr-foundation.org.uk/important_message.html)

**More than £2.3 billion** a year is given to charities by the top 400 Trusts. This is according to the Directory of Social Change's latest addition of the Guide to Major Trusts.

In fact there are many thousands of Charitable Trusts and Foundations in the UK, most relatively small, and many working at a local level. See our Free Guide, Finding Funders to help you identify local Trusts.

**A new lottery in Scotland** pledges 20% of its revenues to charities. The People's Postcode Lottery is to launch in November aiming to raise £120,000 a week for Scottish charities by the end of 2008. The first draw will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

The Big Lottery Fund has awarded £25 million to Natural England for its Access to Nature initiative, an England-wide scheme that will see tens of thousands of people from all backgrounds coming together to learn more about nature and enjoy the great outdoors. The new funding programme will open early in 2008.

**The Department for International Development** is the latest Government Department to provide information about its grants on the Government Funding website: <http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk>

**Funding news added daily at**

[www.freefundingupdate.net](http://www.freefundingupdate.net)