

ISEC/9/83

May 4, 1983

£6.2m TO THE UNITED KINGDOM UNDER REGIONAL FUND

First allocation of grants, 1983

The European Commission has announced grants of £6.2m from the European Regional Development Fund for 18 projects in the United Kingdom. The money will be paid to the UK Government in step with national expenditure on the projects concerned. This brings Regional Fund grants in the United Kingdom to £1 041m since the Fund began in 1975.

The bulk of this allocation - just over £3m - goes to County Durham for improvement of industrial infrastructure. British Telecom receives a further £276 000 for installation of new exchange equipment and line plant in the county.

Other investment assistance should help to create 411 jobs in Glasgow (Barr and Stroud Ltd), and 72 jobs in West Glamorgan (Hotspur) as well as safeguarding 634 jobs in North West England (Chloride).

Finance has also been allocated from the Fund for a series of development studies in the United Kingdom, including £119 000 towards the cost of a feasibility study into the Corby Wonderland Themepark in Northamptonshire (more details on page 3).

About two-thirds of ERDF grants are towards infrastructure projects. This finance is passed on in full to the local and other public authorities concerned, thus reducing the amount they have to borrow to finance the investment in question. As far as industrial projects are concerned, the Community grants now announced represent a Fund contribution of up to half the cost of the assistance given to individual projects by the UK Government. The grants are not paid to the companies concerned in addition to assistance they receive from Government.

	Industry, Tourism		Infrastructure		Totals in £m	
	1st tranche 1983	Total 1975-83	1st tranche 1983	Total 1975-83	1st tranche 1983	Total 1975-83
North England	-	75.70	3.33	141.31	3.33	217.01
N.W. England	1.18	68.56	-	75.47	1.18	144.03
Yorkshire & Humberside	-	5.81	-	59.88	-	65.77
East Midlands	-	1.42	-	7.71	-	9.13
S.W. England	-	3.10	-	23.73	-	26.83
Scotland (1)	1.61	55.04	-	199.50	1.61	267.40
Wales	.09	54.81	-	118.81	-	173.56
North. Ireland ⁽²⁾	-	52.27	-	82.88	-	137.08
Midlands	-	-	-	0.35	-	0.35
	2.88	316.71	3.33	709.64	6.21	1041.22

(1) Includes £12.83m for mountain region infrastructure 1975-82

(2) Includes £ 1.82m for mountain region infrastructure 1975-82

NORTH OF ENGLAND

TOTAL AID £3 328 800

Infrastructures

Durham - British Telecommunications £276 000
(New exchange equipment and line plant)

Aid is committed under a global application to the following:

(DURHAM)

Seaham - Access road to Seaham Docks and Dawdon Colliery £161 100
- Infrastructure works at Port of Seaham £295 500

Easington - Access road to Easington colliery £ 25 800

Consett - Spur roads in Delves Lane Industrial Estate £ 67 800

Wheatley Hill - Access road at Wheatley Hill Industrial Estate £ 24 600

Ferryhill - Access road and services at Dean Bank Industrial Estate £ 69 000

Fishburn - Access road and services at Fishburn Industrial Estate £ 76 200

Spennymoor - Spur road at Green Lane Industrial Estate £ 58 200

Peterlee - Electricity substation at Peterlee North West Ind.Estate £120 000

Darlington - Water treatment works at Broken Scar £167 100
- Reservoir and mains at Longnewton £832 500
- Reservoir and mains at Beaumont Hill £921 300

Western County Durham - Telecommunications works-exchange equipment £117 000
and line plant at various exchanges

Durham City - Telecommunications works-line plant at various exchanges £116 700

Total aid in respect of 14 investments £3 052 800

SCOTLAND

TOTAL AID £1 605 806

Industry

Glasgow, Anniesland and Alexandria, Dumbarton-Barr & Stroud Ltd -
Expansion: Laser rangefinders, periscopes, equipment for guidance
systems £1 605 806

NORTH-WEST ENGLAND

TOTAL AID £1 180 000

Industry

Swinton, Greater Manchester and Bolton, Lancashire - Chloride
Industrial Batteries Ltd
Bolton - expansion, Swinton - conversion/restructuring: battery
manufacture £1 180 000

WALES

TOTAL AID £88 351

Industry

West Glamorgan, Neath - Hotspur Armoured Products Ltd -
protective armouring of motor vehicles for military and security use £ 88 351

Finance for Studies

Four studies have recently been financed by the Regional Fund in the United Kingdom. The first is a feasibility study on the financial viability of establishing the "Wonderworld Themepark and Related Industries Development" at Corby, Northamptonshire. Wonderworld is based on the Disneyworld park in Florida and various "themes" are proposed ranging through high technology, Air and Space travel, concert halls and the environment - with the emphasis on participation. Corby has a current unemployment rate of 20 per cent and the organisers of Wonderworld envisage that on successful development of the project some 3000 jobs would be created on a permanent basis. The Regional Fund will contribute £119 000 towards the costs of this study. European Community finance already plays an important role in bringing new jobs to Corby.

Studies two and three concern Northern Ireland and Ireland. The first will assess the reliability of existing estimates of lignite deposits in the Crumlin/Glenavy area in Northern Ireland, the possible end uses of the lignite and the economic implications of their exploitation for the development of Northern Ireland. The province is heavily dependent upon oil for electricity generation and successful exploitation of indigenous lignite deposits could significantly alter the area's energy consumption patterns. The Regional Fund will contribute £65 000 to cover the cost of this study.

The second is a joint United Kingdom/Ireland study to compare the benefits and costs of the two different strategies preferred by the respective Governments for the improvement of the route between Newry and Dundalk. This joint project will help the two Governments resolve the problem of the traffic bottlenecks between Newry and Dundalk on the European Route EOI. The Regional Fund contributes £10 000 to the Northern Irish and IR £12 000 to the Irish part of the study.

The last study concerns an investigation of potential additional business for Falmouth Docks in Cornwall of the additional support facilities required to attract such increased business and of the viable means of providing these facilities. £27 500 will be provided by the Fund as contribution to the study cost.

Assistance from the Regional fund can be granted at the request of Member States to studies closely linked to the work of the Regional Fund. ERDF grants for studies can amount up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the cost.

Corby, Northants - £119 000

Towards a feasibility study on the financial viability of establishing the "Wonderworld Themepark and Related Industries Development" at Corby.

Crumlin/Glenavy, Northern Ireland - £65 000

To finance a study assessing the reliability of existing estimates of lignite deposits.

Newry, Northern Ireland - £10 000 (Dundalk, Ireland - IR £12 000)

For a joint UK/Ireland study into two strategies for the improvement of the Newry-Dundalk route.

Falmouth, Cornwall - £27 500

For a study into potential additional facilities and additional business for Falmouth Docks.