



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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NEW SOCIAL FUND ALLOCATIONS TO BRITAIN

16.00 workers to benefit

The first payments from the 1974 Social Fund, including two for Britain, were announced by the Commission today.

Under the first disbursement Britain will get nearly £4 million (7.8 million units of account) for retraining 13.500 workers in assisted areas.

This payment comes under Article 5 of the Social Fund which provides for retraining, resettlement and financial support of workers moving jobs under regional development. The Commission also announced under Article 4 of the Social Fund that £350.000 (0.7 million units of account) will be made available for retraining 2.500 textile workers mainly in Northern Ireland. Article 5 provides mainly for specific industries.

Community contributions from the Social Fund are normally matched pound for pound by the member states.

The 13.500 workers who will benefit from the £4 million are in the following areas:

Northern Ireland, West Central Scotland, the rest of Scotland, the industrial North-East, the Northern Region, Merseyside, the rest of North-West, Yorkshire and Humberside, Nottinghamshire - Derby, South Wales, the rest of Wales and South-West England.

The money will be deployed by the Department of Employment mainly through Skill Centres and Colleges of Further Education in these regions.

Some money will go towards training in employers' establishments.

The 1974 budget for the Social Fund was nearly £140 million (275 million units of account). More allocations from this budget will be announced later in the year.

The Commission has just sent to the Council of Ministers the Annual Report of the Social Fund and has proposed that next year the budget should provide nearly £200 million (390 million units of account).

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