

May 20, 1981

£40M FROM SOCIAL FUND FOR UK EMPLOYMENT TRAINING SCHEMES

FIRST ALLOCATION FOR 1981

The European Commission has announced the first allocation of the 1981 Social Fund Grants for the UK, totalling about £40m. Money from the Fund is used to assist vocational training, retraining and resettlement schemes in the member states of the Community, with special emphasis on helping the unemployed and young people entering the labour market for the first time, especially in poorer regions.

The total allocated to member states in this first tranche is £205m ⁽¹⁾ (377.35m EUA). The Fund is oversubscribed this year, so the Commission has been unable to issue decisions on all the applications made, and there are no announcements yet on grants to aid textile workers, migrant workers, women and groups of enterprises, all categories designated for special aid. Decisions on these are expected later in the year.

Under the latest allocation of grants to the UK, £13,331,740 is to be allocated under the Youth Opportunities Programme in Northern Ireland for various schemes for nearly 15000 young people. Another large allocation is to BSC (Industry) Ltd which has been granted the equivalent of £1000 per person to fund training schemes in private firms for 2800 people who find themselves unemployed as a result of steel closures.

On a smaller scale, but nonetheless of great significance, is the allocation of grants for four schemes to help small businesses in rural areas of Scotland including the Highlands and Islands, in Wales and in assisted areas of England.

(1) 1 unit of account = 0.543649 on the basis of March 1981

How the Social Fund works

In order to be eligible for assistance from the Social Fund, a training scheme must have financial support from a public authority. For schemes run by public authorities themselves, the Commission will meet up to half the cost of the project, while for schemes run by private organisations, the Commission may match public authority support.

Grants are made under Article 4 and 5 of the Social Fund.

Article 4

Under this Article, the Fund can assist with training or retraining of particular groups of workers: people leaving agriculture, leaving the textile industry, or acquiring new skills in that area; migrant workers moving between member states or from third countries; young people under 25 years of age looking for their first job; or women over the age of 25 who are unemployed or seeking a return to work after having a family.

Article 5

Under this Article, the Fund can help workers in regions of the Community where unemployment is particularly serious, such as Northern Ireland ('first priority regions'). For the UK, priority is also given to Scotland, Northern England and North-West England. Grants are also given for training or retraining required as a result of technical progress; to help workers who are the victims of changes in particular industries which lead to altered labour needs; and to rehabilitate and train the disabled to compete on the open labour market.

In the UK, most application for assistance from the Fund are submitted by the Department of Employment which has received support for the Youth Opportunities Programme, the Training Opportunities Programme (TOPS) and various other projects to help the disabled, workers faced with redundancy etc. Grants are also requested by other public bodies, such as the Industrial Training Boards and nationalised industries, and increasingly from private companies and voluntary bodies, involved in such schemes as training fishermen to cope with new equipment and safety requirements, and training print workers in the use of new technology in order to preserve jobs.

Details of individual grants in the latest allocation follow. These are for one year unless otherwise stated.

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YOUNG PEOPLE (Article 4)

1.	Scheme to provide linked work and training for 600 people under 25 threatened with unemployment. Manpower Services Commission, Training Services Division (TSD).	200,000
2.	Engineering Industry Training Board (EITB) technician training for women under 18 in engineering as a skill in which women are underrepresented. Manpower Services Commission (TSD)	75,000
3.	Vocational training in vehicle servicing for 15 unemployed women under 25 to facilitate their access to an occupation in which women are underrepresented. Bradford College, Yorkshire.	15,605
4.	Engineering Industry Training Board (EITB) and Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) skilled training linked to the labour market in Northern Ireland for 372 first job seekers under 25. Northern Ireland Training Executive.	158,006
5.	Road Transport Industry Training Scheme (RTITB) scheme for 300 first job seekers under 25 to train as motor mechanics. Northern Ireland Training Executive.	505,634
6.	Distributive Industry Training Board (DITB) vocational preparation scheme to select and recruit young people; and training in management skills for 90 first job seekers under 25. Northern Ireland Training Executive.	30,515
7.	Various schemes under the Youth Opportunities Programme in Northern Ireland for 14 610 unemployed young persons. Department of Manpower Services, Northern Ireland.	13,331,740
8.	Under the Youth Opportunities Programme in Northern Ireland, job creation for 951 unemployed persons under 19 organised by Community Service volunteers (Young Help Scheme) and by the National Trust. Department of Manpower Services Northern Ireland.	207,141

REGIONS (Article 5)

1.	Three year scheme aimed at providing training programmes for firms in North West and South West England, the Midlands, Scotland and Wales willing to recruit and train 600 unemployed persons over and above their normal recruitment in 29 occupations. Distributive Industry Training Board, Manchester.	360,000
2.	Three year scheme to encourage employers in areas with no training facilities to provide training for 120 young people to gain skills as clothing machine engineers. Clothing and Allied Products Industry Training Board, Leeds.	60,000
3.	Basic building and civil engineering training for 480 people in high unemployment areas in West Central Scotland. Construction Industry Training Board's Glasgow Training Centre.	109,500
4.	Three year scheme to provide training for 10 unemployed people at the Dinorwig pumped storage power station now under construction in North Wales. Central Electricity Generating Board.	47,391

5.	Scheme to provide training for 2 720 new entrants to become guards, shunters, signallers, mechanics and technicians in areas of British Rail within assisted areas of Great Britain. British Rail.	530,310
6.	Training programmes in private firms designed to ensure re-employment for 2 800 unemployed or threatened with unemployment in areas affected by steel closures. British Steel Corporation (Industry) Limited.	2,800,000
7.	Scheme to help small firms in Merseyside employing fewer than 25 people to create additional jobs for 1 700 unemployed. Merseyside County Council through County Help for Small Enterprises (CHASE).	450,000
8.	Various training and retraining programmes to assist 3 600 people in schemes operated by private firms in development and special development areas of Great Britain particularly those affected by major redundancies in steel, shipbuilding and other declining industries. Department of Employment on behalf of employers receiving training assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972.	3,000,000
9.	Four schemes to provide financial, technical and management services to small business units in:	
	(a) Scotland: to help 870 people through the Scottish Development Agency to provide training in welding, wrought iron and farriery, and machine tools; business management training in bookkeeping and basic accountancy; industrial engineering advice to improve efficiency and production; and financial and advisory help to trainees and new entrants to the Scottish crafts industry.	176,000
	(b) The Highlands and Islands: to help 2 060 people through the Highlands and Islands Development Board to aid organizations which engage in retraining for added skills and to provide training and retraining for workers whose skills do not match the needs of industry in that area.	199,500
	(c) Wales: to help 600 people through the Welsh Development Agency and its Small Business Unit, to provide advice and training to small businesses.	284,000
	(d) Assisted areas in England to help 1 050 people through the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (CoSIRA) to provide training for unemployed persons in rural areas as well as those threatened with unemployment.	76,800
10.	Training of 150 unemployed persons in an experimental assessment training unit (MATU) in Merseyside. Manpower Services Commission (TSD)	214,590
11.	Training programmes of work preparation courses for 3 080 unemployed adults vis: Wider opportunity courses, Vocational Assessment Course and preparatory courses. Manpower Services Commission (TSD).	2,583,518
12.	Under the Employment Transfer Scheme, transfer of 5 245 unemployed or redundant workers to assured jobs in regional locations which are beyond daily travelling distance of their homes. Manpower Services Commission, Employment Services Division (ESD)	2,500,000

13.	Under the Major Redundancy Scheme aimed at alleviating the effects of the industrial recession, financial help to be provided for 500 unemployed persons and those threatened with redundancy, to enable them to move to other areas to take up employment secured before transfer. Manpower Services Commission (ESD).	256,000
14.	To assist with the recruitment and training of 150 people concerned with the manufacture and assembly of compressors for refrigerators. Northern Compressors Limited, Durham.	30,942
15.	Retraining of 239 people in new techniques in electronics in an area of high unemployment, as part of a rationalisation programme. Mullard, Durham Limited.	16,102
16.	To meet increased demand and new techniques a 3 year programme to recruit 234 people in West Yorkshire for the processing of meat and poultry. Webbs Poultry Products Limited (provisional).	41,062
17.	To fund the training of 300 people on various manufacturing projects in electronics and new technology. Plessey Marine, Newport, Gwent.	21,735
18.	Training of 30 people in the maintenance and operation of the Beatrice oilfield and the Nigg oil processing plants. Safety and ecology will be given high priority. British National Oil Corporation, Aberdeen.	38,780
19.	20 employees to be trained in mechanical engineering techniques in an area of high unemployment. Inwork Craft Products Ltd., Glenrothes, Fife.	15,930
20.	Training of 480 semi-skilled, craft trainees and craftsmen for employment in a refurbishment facility for aero and industrial gas turbines. Caledonian Airmotive, Prestwick International Airport.	33,484
21.	Training of 4 280 unemployed adults at government training centres. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	3,280,602
22.	Training of 2 700 adults under the Attachment Training Scheme by using spare capacity in public and private training centres. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	1,019,975
23.	Training of 6 140 unemployed people in private industry. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	1,049,745
24.	A counter-redundancy scheme to train 150 people threatened with unemployment. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	30,127
25.	Training of 170 unemployed people for junior management posts in industry. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	195,888
26.	A bursary scheme to provide high level training for 10 specialist managers. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	23,432
27.	High level training for 16 managers and supervisors employed in industry. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	3,532
28.	High level marketing training for 12 managers employed in industry. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	28,270
29.	A New Enterprise Programme providing high level training in management skills for 4 people. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	10,947

30.	Job creation for 190 unemployed adults through "Enterprise Ulster". Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	47,025
31.	Training of 140 unemployed adults through "Enterprise Ulster". Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	302,665
32.	Application on behalf of a number of private firms to train 4 320 unemployed people in a variety of occupations in industry and commerce. Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland.	1,925,000
33.	Training of 30 women in Northern Ireland seeking employment in the distributive industry. Distributive Industry Training Board.	11,448
34.	Training of 30 heavy goods vehicle drivers in Northern Ireland. Road Transport Industry Training Board.	13,365

TECHNICAL PROGRESS (Article 5)

1.	Additional training through advanced technology courses for 2 600 technical staff in order to adapt to manpower structure and skill requirements of the UK engineering industry. Engineering Industry Training Board.	800,000
2.	Training and retraining for 25 people in new skills and knowledge required by technological change in the printing and publishing industry. Kenrick and Jefferson Limited, West Bromwich, West Midlands.	1,160
3.	Training and retraining for 336 people in new skills and knowledge to satisfy the requirements of technological change being introduced in the printing industry. Spottiswoode Ballantine Ltd., Colchester, Essex.	7,623
4.	Training and retraining for 98 people to meet new skills and following the introduction of a monotype laser compositor and computer control system as part of technological change in the printing and publishing industry. R W Hourd and Sons Ltd., Stafford.	6,850
5.	Training and retraining over three years of 70 people in new skills to meet the needs of a publishing company in an assisted area to ensure that personnel can meet the demands of modern techniques and systems. R Ackrill Ltd., Harrogate, Yorkshire.	36,225
6.	A three year project to provide new jobs for 44 personnel in a family business specialising in colour work so as to maintain existing staff to meet the needs of modern equipment. W E Berry Ltd, Baildon, Bradford.	9,075
7.	As part of an investment programme retraining of existing workforce of 117 personnel in a sophisticated computerised origination system. A Wheaton and Co., Limited, Exeter, Devon.	10,213
8.	Training of 360 personnel to adapt to rapid technological change. Birmingham Post and Mail Limited, Birmingham.	110,350
9.	Training for 6 staff to adapt to the introduction of photocomposition in order to increase production capacity. Lancashire and Cheshire County Newspapers Ltd., Stockport Cheshire.	360

(Application for aid for projects 2-9 mentioned above was made on their behalf by the British Printing Industries Federation).

10. Training in manufacture and use of micro-chip electronic equipment for 310 employees of firms in the Hereford and Worcester area and undertaken in both private firms and at public authority training facilities. Hereford and Worcester County Training Cooperative (Worcester Chamber of Commerce and Industry) 425,000

THE HANDICAPPED (Article 5)

1. Open workshop for the educationally sub-normal demonstration project for 200 handicapped. City of Bradford Metropolitan Council. 129,130
2. Various rehabilitation and vocational training programmes for 561 disabled people in Northern Ireland. Department of Manpower Services. 646,121
3. Functional rehabilitation at the Joss Cardwell Centre in Belfast for 150 persons suffering from physical handicaps to prepare them for open employment. Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) Northern Ireland. 95,150
4. Training for 75 mentally ill people at the Tamar Street Workshop in Belfast to prepare them for open employment. DHSS Northern Ireland. 82,392
5. Functional rehabilitation for 1005 mentally ill persons to prepare them for open employment. DHSS Northern Ireland. 677,779
6. Rehabilitation and training for 240 people in preparation for open employment. Southern Health and Social Services Board Northern Ireland. 304,623
7. Rehabilitation and training for 383 handicapped persons in preparation for open employment. Western Health and Social Services Board Northern Ireland. 347,195
8. Rehabilitation and Training of 310 psychiatrically handicapped persons for open employment. Industrial Therapy Organisation (Ulster) Ltd. 95,700
9. Rehabilitation at the Balmoral Work Centre in Belfast for 90 physically handicapped persons in preparation for employment in the open market. Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development. 26,950