

ISEC/8/85

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£80.94M REGIONAL FUND GRANTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

(First and second allocation for 1985)

The European Commission has approved grants from the European Regional Development Fund amounting to UK £80.94 million in respect of 305 investments in the United Kingdom.

A number of projects, noteworthy in view of their significance for the development of the regions indicated, are outlined below.

The Fund has granted aid totalling UK £ 6.8 mio to three Leisure/Multipurpose Centres in England, namely the Bridlington Indoor Resort (Yorkshire and Humberside), the Sandcastle Leisure Centre (Blackpool N.W. England) and the English Riviera or Rosetor Centre (Torquay, S.W. England).

These centres will constitute new stimuli to revitalise the attraction of these traditional tourist resorts. Changes in consumer preferences for tourist venues have led or risk leading to a decline in the service industry jobs generated by tourism and the investments concerned are undertaken with a view to maintaining and increasing the members of tourists visiting the resorts and thus the jobs supported by them.

In Yorkshire and Humberside the Langsett Water Treatment works received a grant of £ 2.3 mio. The project will not only improve the current poor quality of water supplied to Barnsley and Sheffield but will provide additional water resources for these and other areas of South Yorkshire including many industrial and commercial users.

In South West England, aid totalling UK £ 0.86 mio has been given to 2 Industrial investments (manufacture of microwave ovens and of semi-conductor devices) together creating over 400 jobs.

In Wales, the Fund has contributed £ 3.6 mio to 18 road work schemes which are designed to improve the transport infrastructure primarily for the benefit of industrialists and tourists.

In Scotland, the Fund made a major grant of £ 1.9 mio to the continuation of the manufacturing the Terex Range of construction vehicles by General Motors. The project, creating 800 jobs, is of crucial importance to employment prospects in north Lanarkshire when the run-down of traditional industries has produced a current unemployment rate of 20 %.

In the North West, the Wigan Inner Ring Road has received aid of £ 8.3 mio. This scheme will improve working and shopping conditions in Wigan, will benefit local industry on the periphery of the town centre and will facilitate better links with radial routes in the rest of the country.

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In the North, £ 2.3 mio has been granted to the Maltby Grange Reservoir scheme which will improve the reliability of potable water supplies to a major part of the Teeside urban area.

The Small Heath By-Pass in the West Midlands received a grant of £ 1.6 mio. The construction of this road, in an area suffering from poor communications, will link the major A45 Coventry Road radial route with Birmingham's Middle Ring Road and City Centre. In so doing it will reduce congestion in Small Heath and will also improve access to industrial areas in the eastern part of Birmingham, thereby encouraging further industrial expansion.

Northern Ireland received £ 7.2 mio for a collection of 68 investments in infrastructure at various locations throughout the Province. This comprises, besides various road, sewerage, electricity and harbour improvements, a number of tourism developments including an Outdoor Heritage Centre at Gortin and a Tourism Centre at Garrison. Aid will also be provided towards improvement of the marina at Warrenpoint to safeguard the Omearh cross-border ferry service.

Millions £

1985 - TRANCHE 1 + 2	INDUSTRY		INFRASTRUCTURE		TOTAL	
UNITED KINGDOM						
NORTH	1,10	(9)	7,40	(28)	8,50	(37)
YORKSHIRE HUMBERSIDE	1,78	(7)	10,67	(22)	12,46	(29)
EAST MIDLANDS	0,20	(3)	0,37	(2)	0,57	(5)
SOUTH WEST	1,39	(4)	2,76	(6)	4,15	(10)
WEST MIDLANDS	0,00	(0)	10,69	(32)	10,69	(32)
NORTH WEST	0,61	(3)	19,64	(27)	20,25	(30)
WALES	0,48	(1)	4,89	(28)	5,38	(29)
SCOTLAND	2,64	(6)	7,25	(35)	9,89	(41)
NORTHERN IRELAND	1,82	(24)	7,23	(68)	9,05	(92)
TOTAL	10,02	(57)	70,92	(248)	80,94	(305)

In brackets: Number of projects

1975-1985	INDUSTRY		INFRASTRUCTURE		STUDIES		TOTAL	
UNITED KINGDOM								
NORTH	79,12	(136)	214,77	(1044)	0,36	(10)	294,25	(1190)
YORKSHIRE HUMBERSIDE	12,66	(66)	132,72	(611)	0,27	(7)	145,65	(684)
EAST MIDLANDS	3,58	(29)	14,17	(75)	0,55	(4)	18,30	(108)
SOUTH WEST	5,71	(43)	65,14	(234)	0,13	(5)	70,98	(282)
WEST MIDLANDS	0,00	(0)	32,95	(101)	0,00	(0)	32,95	(101)
NORTH WEST	45,34	(93)	178,42	(813)	0,14	(2)	223,90	(908)
WALES	54,49	(136)	207,93	(938)	0,65	(7)	263,08	(1081)
SCOTLAND	109,42	(209)	342,48	(1429)	0,49	(14)	452,39	(1652)
NORTHERN IRELAND	63,52	(197)	125,26	(524)	0,19	(4)	188,97	(725)
INTER-REGIONAL	60,00	(2)	0,00	(0)	1,06	(2)	61,06	(4)
TOTAL	433,83	(911)	1313,86	(5769)	3,85	(55)	1751,53	(6735)

In brackets: Number of projects

NOTE:

A more detailed breakdown of grants in particular areas is available from this office on request.

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