



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending watchdog

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Reference FOI-1858

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BRITISH FILM INDUSTRY LOTTERY FUNDING

Thank you for your request of 20 August 2025 where you asked us for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

"I am looking for documents and internal correspondence concerning NAO investigation or monitoring of British Film Institute (BFI) lottery funding covering the period of 2020-24. Can you also give a breakdown of complaints received about the BFI during the same period."

It may help if I explain the role of the NAO. The NAO, which is independent of government, has three main functions. The first is to certify the accounts of central government departments and a wide range of other public sector bodies, and to express an opinion on those accounts. The second is to carry out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which government departments and other public sector bodies have used their resources. The third role is to maintain a Code of Audit Practice and issue guidance to the individual external auditors of local public bodies including local authorities.

We have considered your request in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), and I can confirm that we do not hold any of the information you have requested.

We do audit the BFI lottery funds (for grant awards recognised in year and grant payments), but only a sample, as part of our routine audit work for our true and fair and regularity opinions. Therefore, we do not hold a complete population of lottery grant awards and payments. We have not undertaken any investigation or monitoring of BFI lottery grants or funding (outside of routine audit work on a sample basis). The BFI website has a complete list of lottery funded awards [Funding awards made by the BFI | BFI](#)

Lastly, we also do not have any details on complaints (and would not do so from our normal audit and engagement work). We have not received any complaints about the BFI directly. There is a section on complaints in the BFI's annual report (in the 'how we are doing' section of the Performance Report). [bfi-annual-report-financial-statements-2023-2024.pdf](#) (page 108)

I hope this information is helpful and you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely

NAO FOI Team