

Where are the UK's foundations?

New figures compiled in the ACF office from the main foundation directories give a breakdown of foundations' main office locations across the UK's nations and regions. The figures cover 1400 foundations with an annual spend of at least £100,000 plus all community foundations. Their total spending is thought to be around £1bn. There are 7500 smaller foundations with total spending of around a quarter of this figure.

London	699
Eastern	90
East Midlands	39
North East	28
North West	108
South East	154
South West	86
West Midlands	89
Yorkshire/Humber	76
Scotland	61
Wales	15
Northern Ireland	14
Channel Islands	4
Total	1463

These are very crude figures, which take no account of the geographical area of benefit of each foundation and should not be read in isolation from other analyses. Although 48% of foundations are located in London (including 13 of the 17 whose annual spend is more than £3m), many of them spend across the whole of the UK. The recent study *Patterns of Independent Grant Making in the UK* showed a much smaller geographical skew in the allocation of grants. Some of the bias is due to the origins of the trust (ie there *is* a restricted area of benefit), and there is also evidence of a bias towards urban centres with high poverty indices and minority ethnic populations rather than specifically to London. ACF's own membership of 300 shows a similar proportion – just under half - based in London as with foundations generally, but some under-representation in the Eastern, North West and South East regions.

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