



GRANTS REFRESH PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is pleased to share the outcome of the public consultation on our grants refresh proposals as set out in our Draft HES Grants Framework 2021 Onwards (for consultation), which ran for 6 weeks between 26th July and 6th September 2021.

Our survey engaged a range of stakeholders and feedback was largely positive, demonstrating support for our proposals. We also received suggestions and requests for changes which have been used to improve our approach and create a Grants Framework that meets the needs of our applicants and grantees. This report sets out the background to the consultation, details the consultation process, provides a summary of the responses and explains how these comments were taken into account in producing the final version of the Grants Framework.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Grants Refresh public consultation is the final step in the review and update of the HES Grants Framework. This Framework sets out the background to our grants refresh and summarises our plans to ensure that our approach meets the needs of applicants and grantees and is aligned with current policies and priorities, including our Corporate Plan outcomes.

Prior to public consultation, our Grants Team had consulted with staff from across HES and with other key funders of historic environment projects. We had also undertaken in-depth consultation as part of the review of our Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) programme. The outcomes from this consultation work were used to inform the version of the Framework which was used during the public consultation.

2.1 Consultation Process

Over 300 stakeholders, partners, grantees, other funders and local authorities were contacted on the launch of the consultation and invited to submit a response. Whilst the stakeholders/ partners included those from the historic environment sector, it also extended to a number of community focused organisations and to those representing minority groups. It should also be noted that the response from Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) was representative of the BEFS member organisations following a workshop to discuss the Framework and consultation.

Towards the closing date for the consultation, a further two reminder emails were issued to the stakeholder list. We also worked with colleagues from our communications team to put in place a social media campaign to promote the consultation throughout the live period which involved engaging with several key partner organisations to promote this on their own social media channels.

The survey was divided into six sections: Background Information, Grants Priorities, Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme), Eligible Costs, Other Programmes and General. There were a total of 16 questions presented in a combination of multiple choice and open text format with prompts for more information to be included where necessary.

2.2 The Report

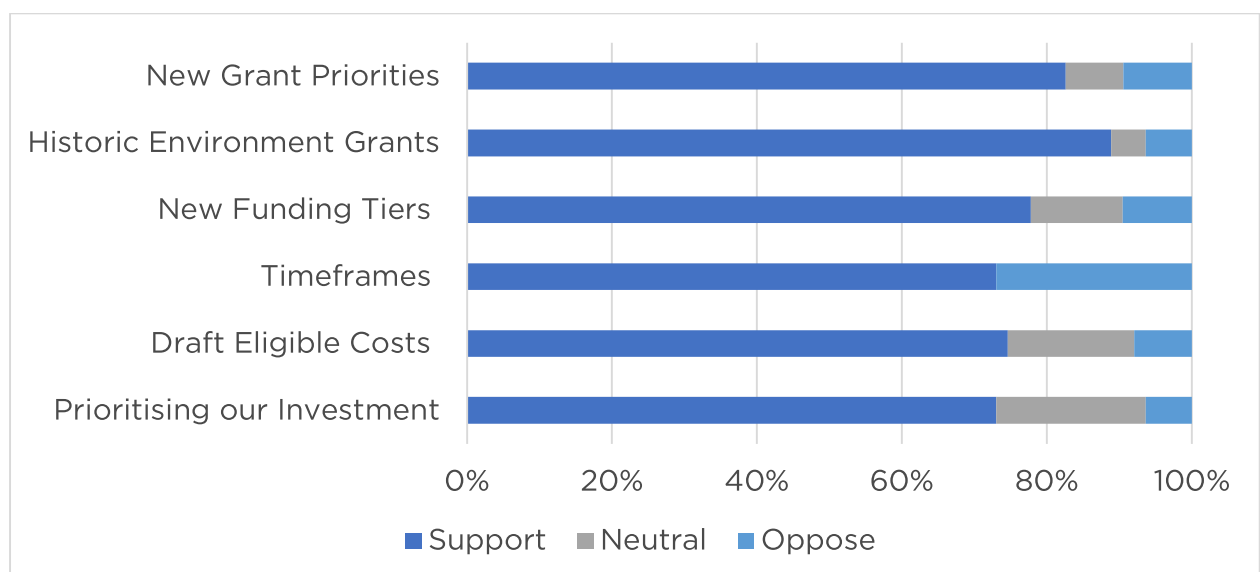
This report summarises the findings from the public consultation exercise. It begins with a section summarising the key findings (section 3), followed by a more detailed summary of the response received to each survey question (section 4). In this section, we have included several individual comments and some direct quotes from the feedback in order to provide a full picture of the responses received. The final section (section 5) identifies the key issues raised by the consultation feedback and outlines the actions undertaken by HES to address these. Actions are either in the form of revisions made to the Grants Framework or clarifications provided in this report. Please note that this section only includes the main changes and clarifications, and other more minor changes have also been made to the Framework in response to consultation feedback.

3. KEY FINDINGS

A total of 63 responses to the online survey were submitted from 52 organisations (one joint response) and 12 individuals with all mandatory questions completed in full.

Out of the 52 organisations which responded, 42 were from the third sector (82%) with two thirds of these delivering work related to the historic environment either at a national or local level. The other respondents from the third sector were made up of cultural, environmental and community-based organisations; professional membership bodies; and organisations whose focus is on delivery equalities and diversity outcomes. The other organisations who responded were Local Authorities (3); an ecclesiastical heritage body or place of worship (4), limited companies (2) and one government agency.

The response to the newly proposed Grants Priorities and Historic Environment Grants (the new Open Programme) was largely positive with this reflected in the graph below.



Key areas of positive feedback are summarised below:

- Over 82% of respondents felt that the scope of our new Grants Priorities was relevant and appropriately targeted and that the Priorities capture a number of important issues for the historic environment.
- Almost 90% of respondents were broadly in support of the new Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme), recognising the benefits and flexibility it will provide for applicants.
- The Partnership Fund was particularly welcomed and viewed as being crucial to providing strategic support for sector infrastructure.
- The language in the document was considered to be clear with few barriers for potential applicants.
- Feedback received regarding user experience was largely positive.

There were also some areas where suggestions for further clarification and amendments were proposed. More details of these and also the actions taken to address them are detailed in Section 5 of the report with some key findings set out below:

- A few respondents felt that the Grants Priorities and the Grants Framework in general were too focussed on historic buildings and not the wider Historic Environment.
- There were some concerns that by adopting broader Grants Priorities, this would mean less funding for historic fabric repair.
- Some respondents felt that the £25k limit proposed for interim repairs may be set too low and also that decision timescales may be too long especially when applied to emergency repairs.
- For Large Grants, it was felt by some that the £100k minimum threshold could be too low if there were only two application rounds per year as this could impact on an applicants' ability to meet other funders' timescales.
- A desire was expressed to see improvements to the applicant/ grantee process (e.g. simplifying and modernising our processes; adopting a new Grants Management System; and improving guidance).

4. CONSULTATION RESPONSE SUMMARY

Section 1: Background Information

Q1: Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Option	Total	Percent
As an individual	12	19.05%
On behalf of an organisation	51	80.95%

Q2: Have you applied for any HES grants since 2016?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	48	76.19%
No	15	23.81%

Q3: Which HES grant programme/s have you applied to since 2016?

Option	Total	Percent
Not Applicable	16	25.40%
Archaeology Funding Programme (ARCH)	10	15.87%
City Heritage Trust (CHT)	6	9.52%
Coast and Waters Heritage Fund (C&WHF)	5	7.94%
Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)	6	9.52%
Grants to Places of Worship (GPOW)	2	3.17%
Historic Environment Recovery Fund (HERF)	10	15.87%
Historic Environment Repair Grant (HERG)	17	26.98%
Historic Environment Support Fund (HESF)	9	14.29%
Organisational Support Fund (OSF)	16	25.40%

Other HES funding applied for out with the main HES grants programme was to our Monument Management Fund; Technical Support Grants and Publications Support.

Q4: Have you been awarded any HES grants since 2016?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	46	73.02%
No	17	26.98%

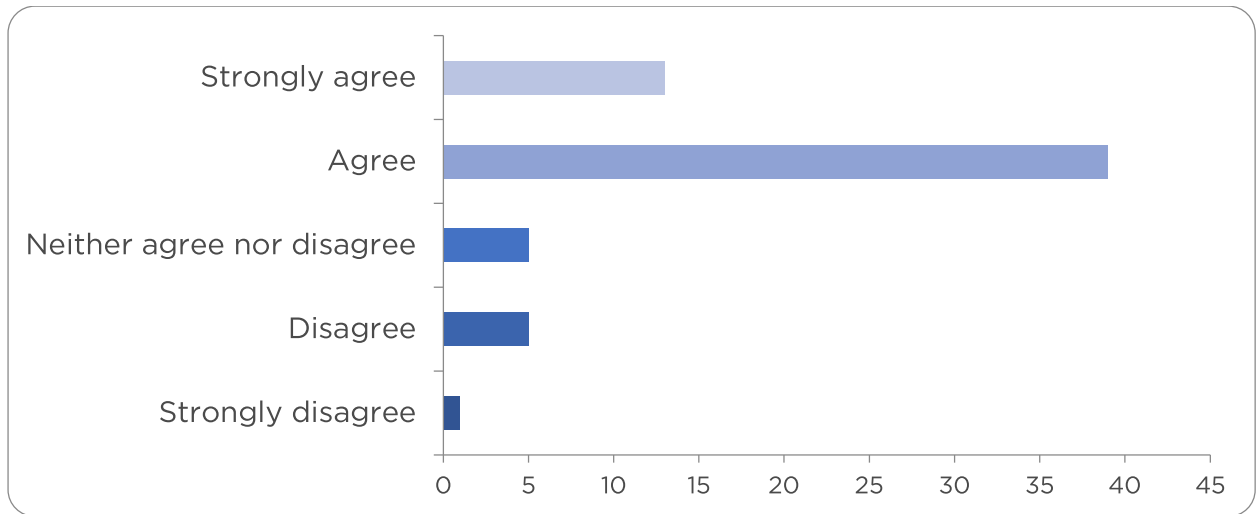
Q5: Under which HES grant programme/s have you been awarded a grant since 2016?

Option	Total	Percent
Not Applicable	18	28.57%
Archaeology Funding Programme (ARCH)	10	15.87%
City Heritage Trust (CHT)	6	9.52%
Coast and Waters Heritage Fund (C&WHF)	2	3.17%
Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)	6	9.52%
Grants to Places of Worship (GPOW)	3	4.76%
Historic Environment Recovery Fund (HERF)	9	14.29%
Historic Environment Repair Grant (HERG)	12	19.05%
Historic Environment Support Fund (HESF)	10	15.87%
Organisational Support Fund (OSF)	15	23.81%

Other HES funding awarded out with the main HES grants programme was under our Monument Management Fund; Technical Support Grants and Publications Support.

Section 2: Our New Grants Priorities

Q6: Do you feel that the scope of our new Grants Priorities is relevant and appropriately targeted for historic environment projects?



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	13	20.63%
Agree	39	61.90%
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7.94%
Disagree	5	7.94%
Strongly disagree	1	1.59%

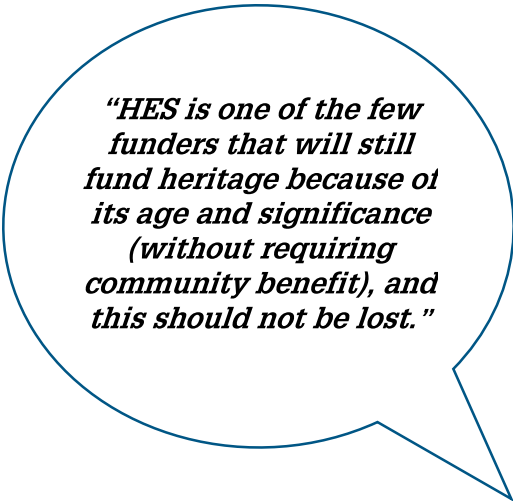
Over 82% of respondents felt that the scope of our new Grants Priorities is appropriately targeted and that these capture a number of important issues for the historic environment. Although the scope of the priorities is wide ranging, they focus on what is relevant and are more concise than the current grant outcomes.



There was also recognition that by aligning the Grant Priorities with wider corporate outcomes, this would help organisations to develop stronger projects to have clearer aims and outcomes for the historic environment and for local communities, helping to make a case for support to other funders and stakeholders.

Whilst 9.5% of respondents disagreed to some extent with the proposed new Grant Priorities, several also commented that they were still supportive of the broad structure. Included below is a summary of the main concerns raised in relation to the proposed priorities and some suggestions for amendments:

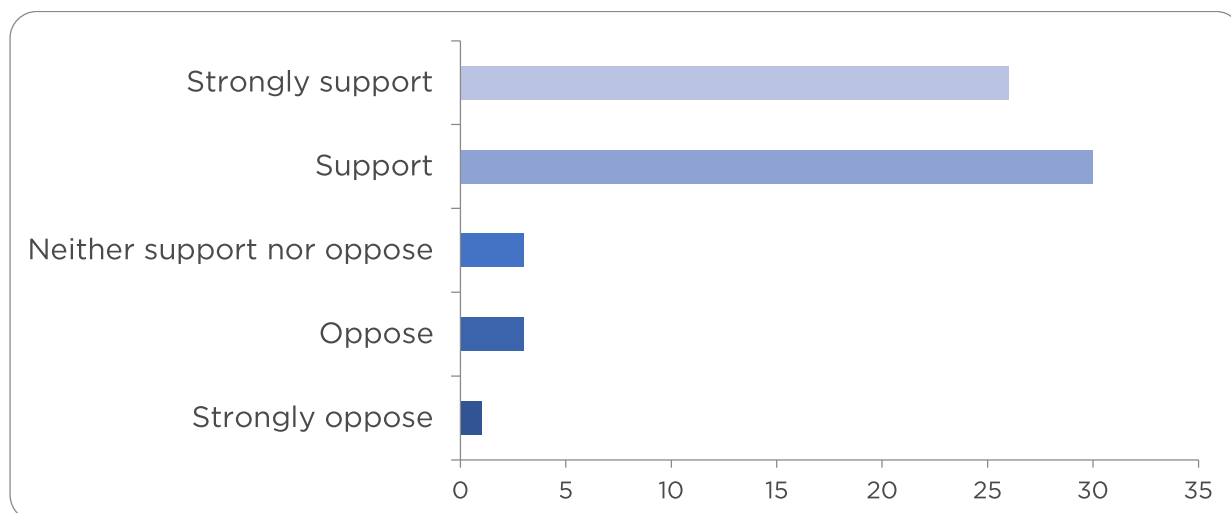
- Some priorities were too similar to those of the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and other funders which could mean less funding is available from HES for repairs to important historic buildings. This should be avoided especially where HES requires match funding.
- The priorities were more focused on historic buildings, leaving behind other areas of the historic environment (e.g. ancient monuments and landscapes).
- Consideration should be given to weighting the priorities.
- Research should not get lost in the priorities as it can play an important part in historic environment projects.
- The language/ phrasing of Priority 6 could be amended to help better reflect the wider outcomes that could be delivered by a project.
- It would be good to see a positive commitment to equalities at the heart of the Grants Priorities, across all opportunities created by the grants.



“HES is one of the few funders that will still fund heritage because of its age and significance (without requiring community benefit), and this should not be lost.”

Section 3: Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme)

7: To what extent do you support what is being proposed under Historic Environment Grants (the Open Programme)?



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly support	26	41.27%
Support	30	47.62%
Neither support nor oppose	3	4.76%
Oppose	3	4.76%
Strongly oppose	1	1.59%

Almost 90% of respondents were broadly in support of the new Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme). It was felt that it would be more accessible for smaller organisations who do not have experience in doing funding applications. The benefits of combining the capital and activity-based costs of a project/ grant were also acknowledged.

The new 'Express Grants' tier of funding and ability to provide funding to support smaller scale 'interim repairs' for at risk heritage assets was particularly welcomed.

Set out below is a summary of the main concerns raised in relation to Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme) and some suggestions for amendments:

- There was a concern that the move to the new Open Programme would lead to a reduction in the funding available for archaeology projects.
- Equivalent guidance should be available on accredited professional advisers for archaeology and ancient monument projects as there is for building based projects.
- Under interim repairs, could funding be provided towards the cost of minor repairs to make a building safe or usable temporarily to support meanwhile uses?
- Could a minimum amount of funding be allocated for each tier to avoid the situation where the overall funding available will be allocated to large grants?
- It would be beneficial if more support could be provided for smaller and/or under-represented groups who may not have much experience in applying for grants (e.g. through better signposting to advice or outreach work).
- If the new programme is designed to support multiple activities under one application, you should acknowledge the need for historic fabric projects to address the archaeological information embodied within, and under, these structures.

8: Do you feel that the three different tiers of funding proposed under Historic Environment Grants (the Open Programme) are set at the right levels?

Express Grants: Between £1,000 and up to £25,000
 Small Grants: Above £25,000 and up to £100,000
 Large Grants: Above £100,000

Option		Total	Percent
Yes		49	77.78%
No		6	9.52%
No strong opinion		8	12.70%

Whilst over 75% of respondents welcomed the three tiers of funding and felt that they were set at the right levels, a small percentage (9.5%) disagreed for the following reasons:

- There were some concerns over the levels of funding set within each tier. Most commonly that the minimum large grant of £100k amount is insufficient.
- Could a 'Medium Grants' tier be introduced or could the maximum grant under the small grants tier be increased?
- As many small projects may only need a grant of less than £1,000, could the starting point for the first tier be reduced?
- Could the current maximum grant of £500k be increased for more complex projects where more investment is needed?
- The scale and difference between a £200k (£100k grant) and a £1m (£500k grant) project should be noted which could present challenges to the decision-making process.

9: What do you think about the new application and decision timeframes being proposed under Historic Environment Grants (the Open Programme)?

Express Grants

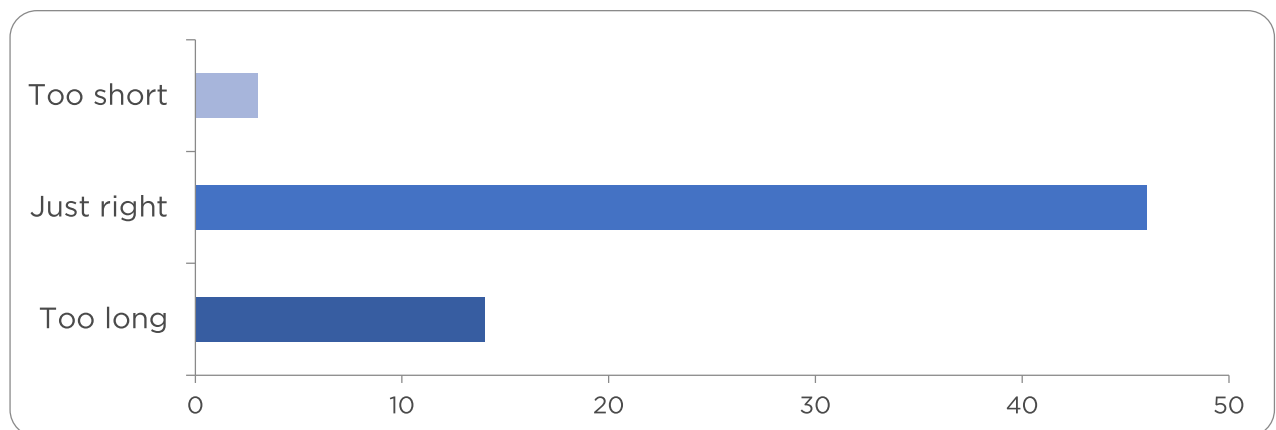
- Applications accepted on a rolling basis
 - Decision within 6-8 weeks

Small Grants

- Three application deadlines per year
 - Decision within 10-12 weeks


Large Grants

Two application deadlines per year
Decision within 12-16 weeks



Option	Total	Percent
Too short	3	4.76%
Just right	46	73.02%
Too long	14	22.22%

Almost 75% of respondents felt that the application and decision timeframes for the new Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme) were 'just right'.

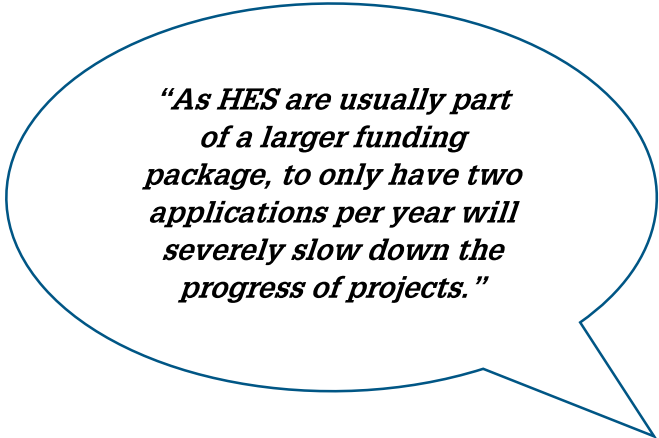


"...the new flexible approach will make your programmes a lot more accessible."

It was felt that the timeframes were largely appropriate for the different grant tiers with acknowledgement of the time required by HES to assess applications. The increased flexibility around the Express and Small Grants was also welcomed and viewed as a positive addition.

22% of respondents disagreed, feeling that the timeframes being proposed were too long. The reasons for this are summarised below with some suggestions on how these could be improved:

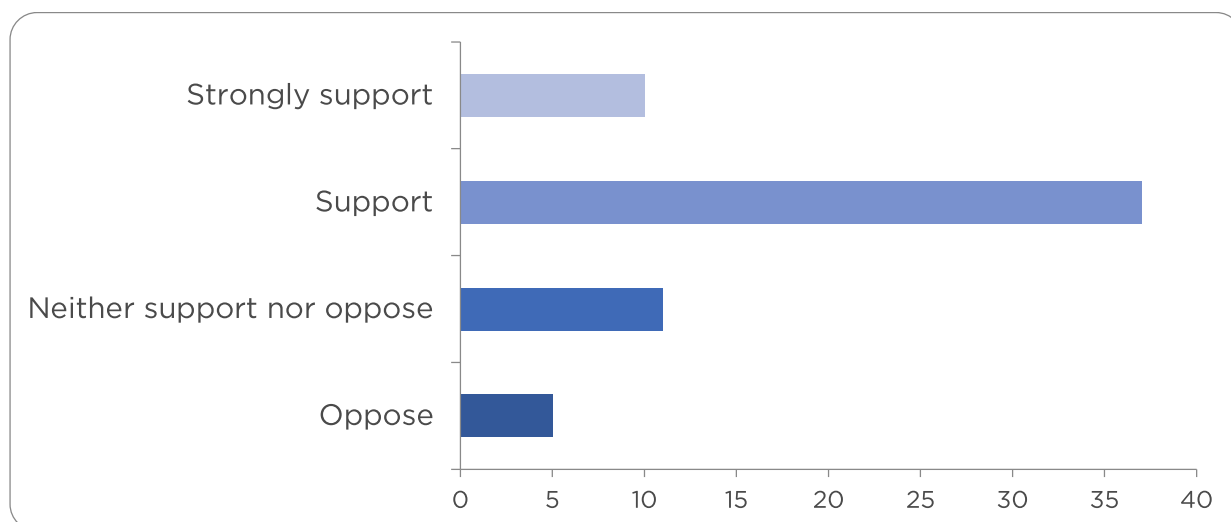
- The decision timeframes proposed for the Express Grants could be too long for some projects (interim/emergency repairs) and could be made more flexible where action may be required to be taken sooner.
- Small Grants should have a quicker decision timeframe with four application rounds every year.
- Two application rounds per year for the Large Grants is too few and could jeopardise some projects and their partnership funding if they were to miss a funding round. The existing three application rounds were preferable.
- It would be helpful to clarify the different timescales for agreeing the indicative and firm grant offers, especially for Large Grants.
- Could HES consider aligning the application and decision timeframes with other key historic environment funders?



"As HES are usually part of a larger funding package, to only have two applications per year will severely slow down the progress of projects."

Section 4: Draft Eligible Costs Guidance for Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme)

10: To what extent do you support the scope of the draft eligible costs for Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme)?



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly support	10	15.87%
Support	37	58.73%
Neither support nor oppose	11	17.46%
Oppose	5	7.94%
Strongly oppose	0	0.00%

The majority of respondents (74%) were supportive of the draft eligible costs proposed for the Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme) and of the inclusion of new items such as sympathetic energy efficiency measures, interim/emergency repair works and maintenance planning.

8% of respondents were not supportive of the draft eligible costs for the following reasons:

- The provision of funding support for other activities and work will mean less funding available for traditional repairs.
- There was a concern that HES will no longer fund post excavation costs on archaeology projects unless they have already been funded by us.
- The £25k funding available for emergency repairs / temporary protective measures may be insufficient given the poor condition of some historic buildings.

- For publications, apart from archaeological projects (post excavation), could funding be available to support this cost for other projects where it would meet HES Grant Priorities?
- Development work (e.g.condition surveys) should be included as an eligible cost as they can save costs/ funding in the long term.
- Could further guidance be made available on the extent of HES support in relation to the development of sustainable historic environment skills opportunities?
- Could the purchase of equipment to assist SME's in the provision of services to the archaeology and heritage sectors be included as an eligible cost?
- There can be issues with the ability to source the services of a conservation accredited professional adviser in more remote areas of the country and this should be considered further.

Section 5: Other Programmes

11: Do you have any comments or feedback on any of the other programmes included in the HES Grants Framework (Partnership Fund, CARS and City Heritage Trusts)?

There were 34 responses to this question which were largely supportive of the other programmes mentioned in the Framework. This includes a very positive response to the Partnership Fund and acknowledgement of how it could provide support to critical sector infrastructure, especially intermediary organisations. Feedback received on this question is summarised below:

Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS):

- It would be useful to see the outcome of the recent CARS consultation.
- It would be helpful to have the opportunity for an informal site visit before submitting a CARS grant application.
- CARS could consider the traditional skills training element along with looking at further ways of engaging with young people.
- There is a concern that where there is a CARS, it can take up all the resources for that area with equally deserving buildings suffering.
- Recognition that there may be specific challenges for rural areas and that there could be opportunities to work with HES to support these communities in addressing these.

New Partnership Fund

- There is a concern that funding for projects to deliver the Scottish Archaeology Strategy (SAS) will only be made available to the few identified SAS partner bodies.



- Having HES support projects/ organisations at a certain level helps leverage funding from others.
- It appears that this will mean applicants do not need to reinvent the wheel for each application round. However, it is agreed that organisations should still require to reapply to ensure that the need is still demonstrated.
- Could this be used to support the Heritage Trust Network (HTN) and Building Preservation Trust’s (BPTs) to build resilience and help to ensure that they can continue to deliver complex historic building projects, similar to the Heritage Development Trusts model in England?

Section 6: General

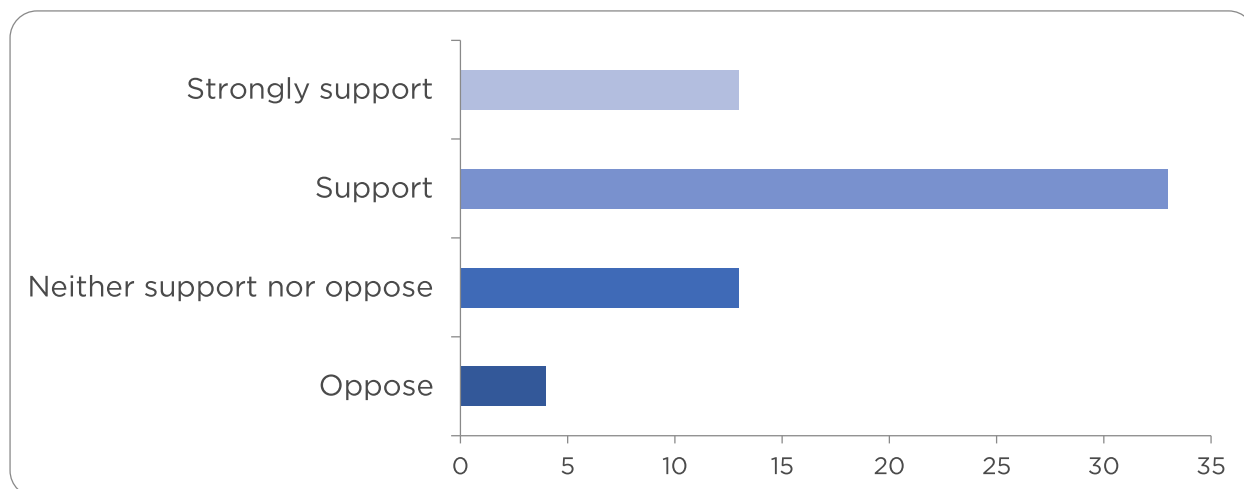
12: As part of this work, we completed an Equalities Impact Assessment (Initial Screening). Are there any aspects of our proposals which you feel may present a barrier or disadvantage to anyone who may wish to apply for a grant from HES?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	8	12.70%
No	28	44.44%
No strong opinion	27	42.86%

Whilst the majority (87%) of respondents felt that the proposals would not present a barrier or disadvantage to anyone applying for a grant from HES, there were a small percentage, 13%, who disagreed with reasons for this in the following summary:

- The complexity of the current grant application forms can be hard to understand with too much jargon. These should be easily accessible for those with disabilities and also available in multiple formats/ languages.
- Rural areas often find the SIMD data fails to adequately reflect the issues that they have with poverty and social isolation. These more rural projects could benefit from additional assessment by local staff.
- For areas historically under-represented in historic environment projects, this may continue if they were to be assessed against those areas who have had the opportunity to build capacity.
- The requirement for match funding could deter some applicants as could the proposed deadlines and funding caps.
- More engagement work could be carried out to raise awareness of the new programme, specifically with groups who feel that the 'historic environment is not for them'.

13: To what extent do you support our proposed approach to prioritising and targeting our investment?



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly support	13	20.63%
Support	33	52.38%
Neither support nor oppose	13	20.63%
Oppose	4	6.35%
Strongly oppose	0	0.00%

“...a small organisation such as ours appears to have nothing to be seriously concerned about when making applications in the future.”

The majority (73%) of respondents were in support of the proposed approach to prioritising and targeting our investment. It was acknowledged that this approach appears to have been well considered, is flexible to respond to the range of projects anticipated and has been set out in clear and concise way in the Framework document.

The broader approach of what can be considered as ‘significant’ heritage assets is also welcomed.

A small percentage of respondents, (6%), opposed the proposed approach

to prioritising and targeting our investment with reasons for this summarised below.

- The proposed prioritisation of repair to historic fabric over all other aspects of the historic environment is at odds with the statement that HES will prioritise projects that will deliver ‘strong outcomes in line with our Grant Priorities’.
- More reference could be made to other historic environment assets such as archaeology, historic gardens, historic battlefields and cultural landscapes.

14: How clear did you find the language in the document?

Option	Total	Percent
Very clear	14	22.22%
Clear	37	58.73%
Neutral	11	17.46%
Unclear	1	1.59%
Very unclear	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

81% of respondents found the language in the document to be clear/ very clear with only one respondent finding the language to be unclear.

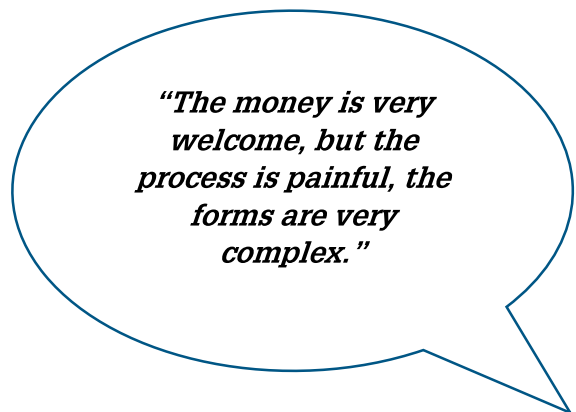
15: If you have received a grant from us in the past, do you have any feedback on your experience?

67% of respondents submitted a response to this question with the majority reporting positive experiences, acknowledging the support that they had received from our grants team and other HES staff. The newly proposed automated Grants Management System for submitting applications, grant claims and other documentation was also welcomed.



There was also some critical feedback received, most of which will be addressed

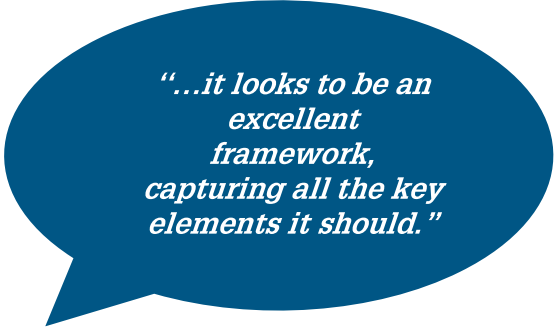
as part of the grants refresh. This included the complexity of application forms; a lack of clarity and transparency regarding grant processes; changes to applications and priorities with short notice to applicants and long application timeframes.



It was also suggested that it would be helpful if HES could use their own social media platforms more to promote our grant funded projects for the benefit of both grantees and HES.

16: Do you have any more comments/ feedback on the Draft HES Grants Framework?

49% of respondents provided further comments/ feedback on the draft HES Grants Framework which included the reiteration of previous comments, general support for the proposed changes and suggestions for further information to be included. Included below is a summary of the comments and suggestions for improvement not covered elsewhere in the report.



“...it looks to be an excellent framework, capturing all the key elements it should.”

Requests for further information

- An explanation of where our grant funding comes from.
 - A clearer breakdown of how funding will be split between different project activities.
 - Details to be provided on how grantees will report on the Grants Priorities.
- Could some data be made available to show how funding is currently split between the funding programmes to help to put into context the changes being made?
 - An explanation of the scoring system used which could help applicants in completing their applications and to better understand their feedback.
 - Could guidance/ a toolkit be provided on how to measure success specifically in relation to the climate change/ energy efficiency priority and also on the production of management/ maintenance plans?

Other Comments/ Suggestions

- The maximum contribution of 50% towards grant eligible costs could prove difficult for third sector organisations to find match funding for projects.
- The proposed flexibility in grant conditions for third parties is needed, particularly important for multiple ownership sites.
- In place of applications being ‘assessed in competition’, could these instead be ‘assessed on Merit’.

5. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY HES

Following analysis of the feedback, a number of key issues were identified as the main areas where action or clarification is required. These are organised under 10 Themes in the table below. The 'Our Response' column outlines how these issues have been addressed - either by changes made to the Grants Framework or by providing clarification or further information.

In addition to the information outlined below, there are other points from the feedback which have also been addressed within the Framework document. If you feel that any of your feedback has not been sufficiently addressed in this report and/or in the final Grants Framework, you can e-mail us at grants@hes.scot.

Key issues	Our Response
Theme 1: Grants Priorities	
<p>1.1 A few respondents felt that the new Grants Priorities were focused on historic buildings and requested that we ensure that a wider variety of historic environment assets were represented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment included in the Grants Framework to clarify that our approach aligns with the definition of the historic environment set out in Our Place in Time - 'the cultural heritage of places', which is 'a combination of physical things (tangible) and those aspects we cannot see - stories, traditions and concepts (intangible). • Further clarification provided on what we mean by heritage assets - that this includes a wide range of structures, sites and assemblages across Scotland (such as historic buildings, ancient monuments and archaeology, designed or cultural landscapes and historic gardens and battlefields).
<p>1.2 There were a few comments that Priority 6, which relates to economic benefits, should acknowledge the importance of inclusion and public benefit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 6 redrafted to encourage a more inclusive and sustainable approach to achieving economic impact through the projects we fund.
<p>1.3 There was a request to see a positive commitment to equalities at the heart of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional wording has been applied across our Grants Priorities to reflect our commitment to achieving

<p>grants priorities - across all opportunities generated by the grant.</p>	<p>equalities and diversity outcomes, particularly in the areas of engagement, access, training and job creation.</p>
<p>Theme 2: Balance of Funding</p>	
<p>2.1 A few respondents voiced concern about the risk of losing the current focus on the historic building fabric as we adopt broader Grants Priorities and move to an open programme. There was also mention of potential overlap with National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) outcomes and a desire to see HES continuing to fund the repair of heritage assets primarily based on their heritage significance or merit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As set out in the Grants Framework, we recognise historic fabric repair as being a key focus of our work, and are not planning to reduce the proportion of grant funding that we invest in this area. This is evidenced in the weighting of Priority 3 in the over £100k stream to ensure that the majority of our larger projects funded through Historic Environment Grants are focused on repair and other activities that continue to build the resilience of the historic environment. We have also introduced grants for interim repair in recognition of the important role HES plays in ensuring the survival of significant at-risk heritage assets. In line with our usual practice, we will continue to monitor the proportion of our grants which is spent on repair. • Whilst we acknowledge that there is a degree of overlap with NLHF outcomes due to mutual areas of interest, there are key differences in our approach which make our funding sources complementary. Our investment is specifically focused on the historic environment, and we exclude some works which are eligible for NLHF funding, such as non-repair related capital works or fit out costs, so that we can focus our investment on the historic fabric. It is also worth noting that we already fund capital and activity projects jointly with the NLHF through our other programmes (e.g. training and outreach through the Historic Environment Support Fund and Organisational Support

	<p>Fund). The difference going forward is that we will be able to fund different types of activities under one streamlined programme, rather than requiring applications under multiple programmes. There will not be a requirement to include additional activities within a repair project, but the option will be there for applicants who wish to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst heritage significance (including formal designations) remains one of the key criteria for our funding decisions, alongside heritage risk, our funding is limited so it is essential to consider the full range of outcomes offered, and other factors such as value for money and sustainability, when considering each investment.
<p>2.2 There was strong support for the climate action priority, but there were a few concerns regarding the potential for larger scale retrofit activities to impact on availability of funds for repairs, especially where other sources of funds were available for this purpose.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The details of grant eligibility in this area are still being confirmed, but we do not intend to duplicate funding for energy efficiency measures which can be funded by other sources. We will be focusing on works which relate to the external envelope of historic buildings and only as part of wider repair projects.
<p>2.3 The amount of funding available for archaeology projects was also an area of concern, with a few respondents feeling that archaeology was underrepresented in the Grants Priority texts and querying how we will ensure sufficient spend without a separate programme in place. A few respondents also questioned whether new archaeology organisations will be able to access the Partnership Fund if they were</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have worked with our archaeology colleagues to revise the Grants Priorities to ensure that they are balanced and inclusive. Although there will no longer be a separate programme for archaeology projects, archaeology will still be a priority for funding under the new Grants Framework, and we will continue to monitor the proportion of our funding which is spent on archaeology. We have also updated our Framework to clarify that applicants to the Partnership Fund will not need to be named in the Archaeology Strategy in order to be eligible to apply for funding under

<p>not named in Scotland's Archaeology Strategy.</p>	<p>this programme. However, they will need to be proposing to work towards one of the Strategy's objectives and will be expected to consult with any relevant Strategy partners before applying for funding.</p>
<p>2.4 One respondent commented that we should do more to recognise the importance of archaeological investigation informing repair and conservation projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agree that archaeological investigations can play an important role in informing conservation work. This is reflected in the section on Archaeology (p.12) and eligible costs (p.19) which indicates that archaeological investigations can assist the conservation and management of sites. We will also be amending our expert advice template to ask relevant colleagues whether any research or investigations should be undertaken to inform repair or conservation projects.
<p>Theme 3: Eligible Costs</p>	
<p>3.1 There was a suggestion that in addition to funding emergency repairs and temporary protection measures under the interim repair category, we should also include minor repairs to make an asset safe or usable for temporary or exploratory uses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recognise the value that enabling temporary uses can have in terms of generating support, engaging audiences and finding sustainable solutions for historic environment assets. We have therefore included this as an eligible cost within the interim repair category.
<p>3.2 A number of respondents were concerned that £25k for interim repairs may not be sufficient given the cost of repairs and the fact that match funding could be difficult to secure in an emergency situation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have considered this feedback and agree that £25k could fall short in some cases. We have therefore decided to increase the upper limit for these types of works to £50k. However, we emphasise that these types of projects will only be funded in exceptional cases where there is a strong fit with our funding criteria.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications are still eligible under 'production of interpretation media'

<p>3.3 There was a question about whether we can continue to fund publications.</p>	<p>or ‘educational resources’, but like any activity, these will need to deliver against our Grants Priorities.</p>
<p>3.4 A number of questions were raised regarding the types of costs (such as post-excavation, publication or equipment costs) which would be eligible as part of archaeology projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are currently developing Guidance for Archaeology Projects, which will contain more specific information about requirements and eligible costs.
<p>3.5 There was an observation that alongside the guidance on adviser accreditation for building related projects, there should be equivalent guidance for archaeology and ancient monument projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section in the Grants Framework on professional advisers (p.10) has been updated to address this, clarifying that at minimum we require that the lead archaeologist on any HES supported project to be a member of The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). This matter will also be covered in the Archaeology Guidance being developed by our archaeology colleagues.
<p>Theme 4: Funding Tiers and Application Rounds</p>	
<p>4.1 Some respondents felt that the bottom threshold of £100k for Large Grants may be too low, given that many repair projects would require a grant above this value. They felt that this would be particularly problematic if there were only two application rounds for Large Grants per year. There were some concerns that this arrangement could impact on the ability of applicants to meet the timescales of other funders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have increased the number of application rounds for Large Grants rounds to three. We agree that this should help applicants to maintain momentum and manage multiple application processes more easily. It should also help to ensure that lower capacity groups are not disadvantaged if they are not able to meet a particular deadline.
<p>Theme 5: Decision Timeframes</p>	
<p>5.1 While most respondents found the decision timeframes satisfactory, a few people felt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have provided more information in the Grants Framework about how our decision timeframes are informed

<p>they were too long or noted the need for flexibility in these timeframes when it comes to urgent cases, for example when a building is at immediate risk of loss.</p>	<p>by aspects of our assessment and decision-making processes, such as the need to take expert advice and hold panel meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst it is important that we follow these timescales, we understand that there may be exceptional cases which need to be dealt with more urgently, particularly when it comes to emergency repairs. In recognition of this, we have amended the Grants Framework to include a commitment to considering requests for decisions to be fast-tracked in exceptional circumstances.
<p>Theme 6: Prioritising our Investment</p>	
<p>6.1 Whilst there was a positive response to the idea of developing a place-based strategy, it was felt that more information is needed to define the strategy more clearly in heritage terms. It was also cautioned that certain indicators (such as the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) may not be the most appropriate measures for all contexts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this point we are still working with colleagues to develop a relevant set of indicators and will provide more information when it is available.
<p>Theme 7: User Experience</p>	
<p>7.1 Some opportunities for improvement were noted, including simplifying forms and processes, clarifying grant processes and moving to an online portal. It was also noted that more clarity is required up front about certain contractual requirements (such as the need for a standard security on some grants) and that applicants to Historic Environment Grants will require more detailed guidance to enable them to develop successful proposals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This feedback aligns well with the purpose of the grants refresh as one of our main aims is to improve the user experience for our applicants and grantees. We have included additional information in the Grants Framework about the changes we are undertaking in this area. In addition to streamlining our grant programmes, we are implementing an automated end-to-end grants management system for the first time. This will provide an online portal for all communications with applicants and grantees, making it easier to request payments and

<p>across the different areas of activity covered by the Grants Priorities.</p>	<p>report on project progress. It will also enable us to offer an enhanced pre-application process to ensure that people only go to the trouble of submitting full applications when they are ready.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As we develop the forms and processes for our new grant programmes, we are committed to making these as simple as possible. We also plan to improve our guidance by providing greater clarity up front for applicants in areas such as eligibility, processes and contractual requirements. Finally, we are planning to work with relevant colleagues and partner organisations to provide detailed guidance in key areas, such as traditional skills training, archaeology, repair, maintenance planning and measuring impact.
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Theme 8: Barriers to Funding

<p>8.1 There were some comments regarding the need for HES to offer more pre-application support to smaller or lower capacity groups to access our funding. Related to this, there was a comment that development work such as condition surveys should be eligible as they can save further funding allocation as projects develop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We certainly recognise the value of development support for lower capacity groups or those looking to take on historic environment assets or engage new audiences. On an annual basis, we provide significant financial support to a number of intermediary organisations to enable them to provide early project and development support to communities and groups who are interested in the historic environment and accessing funding from HES. This includes annual funding for Architectural Heritage Fund Scotland (AHF) to provide development grants and support to organisations like community groups before they apply for a larger grant from HES. We also support the Heritage Trusts Network financially to provide early development support for groups interested in tackling at-risk heritage assets.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of our Grants Refresh, we plan to improve our website to signpost more effectively to these sources of support as well as existing resources within HES, including our webpages containing information and resources for communities. We will also continue to offer pre-application discussions to applicants – and site visits where practical – prioritising lower-capacity groups. We are also currently working with HES colleagues to improve our service for handling early project enquiries. • Despite the financial support we provide for development support through organisations such as AHF Scotland, we recognise that there can be gaps in the development support available for certain types of projects, such as those relating to ancient monuments. This is why we have noted in the eligible costs section of the Grants Framework (p.19) that we may consider development costs eligible in cases where other sources of funding are not available.
<p>8.2 Respondents also emphasised the importance of keeping application and reporting processes as simple and clear as possible to ensure that community groups were not disadvantaged when applying for our funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mentioned above, this is an important aspect of our grants refresh to ensure that we do not create unnecessary obstacles for applicants and grantees.
<p>8.3 A final remark on this topic was that the requirement for a specific amount of match funding can present a barrier for some applicants given the high level of competition for funds. On a related note, there was a question about whether the 50% rate would apply to grants for emergency repairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst match funding will be an important requirement in most cases, the typical grant intervention rates we provide act as a guide, and we will consider the specific circumstances of each project. In our Grants Framework, we acknowledge that we may consider granting at a higher rate in some cases, such as emergency repairs.

	<p>We have also updated the Grants Framework to say that we will take account of in-kind and volunteer contributions to recognise the full contribution being made by the applicant or community.</p>
<p>Theme 9: Other Programmes</p>	
<p>9.1 The feedback on our plans for refreshing the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) was generally supportive. Although we have already consulted on this separately, there was some feedback including a request for more information about the recent review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All comments to be fed into refresh process and review report will be made available online in due course.
<p>9.1 A few respondents noted concerns that only named organisations in Scotland's Archaeology Strategy (SAS) would be eligible to join the Partnership Fund and that this would be unfair to other organisations who may wish to apply for funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification provided in the Grants Framework to clarify our position on this (please see point 2.3 above).
<p>Theme 10: Sharing the Success of our Grants</p>	
<p>10.1 There were a number of comments about how HES should use social media channels more to promote the projects we support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have updated our Grants Framework to state that this will be a priority as we roll out the new grant programmes.

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