



Under embargo until: 25 August 2018, 00:01hrs

New figures show changing picture for charity income in Wales

New figures* from WCVA's [Third Sector Data Hub](#) show a changing picture for charity income in Wales. The good news is that the sector's overall income has seen a small increase, from £1,092 million to £1,196 million, and the sector is successfully diversifying its income despite significant reductions in public funding. However, there's still a long way to go to close the gap with other UK nations.

The data highlights a trend of reduced public funding for the third sector. In 2010/11, Welsh Government funding made up 55% of the sector's income. This figure dropped to 49% in 2014-15 and 46% in 2015-16. And while grant funding has shown a small increase year-on-year, rising from £248 million to £257 million, this is still way down from £350 million in 2010-11. (See fig 1)

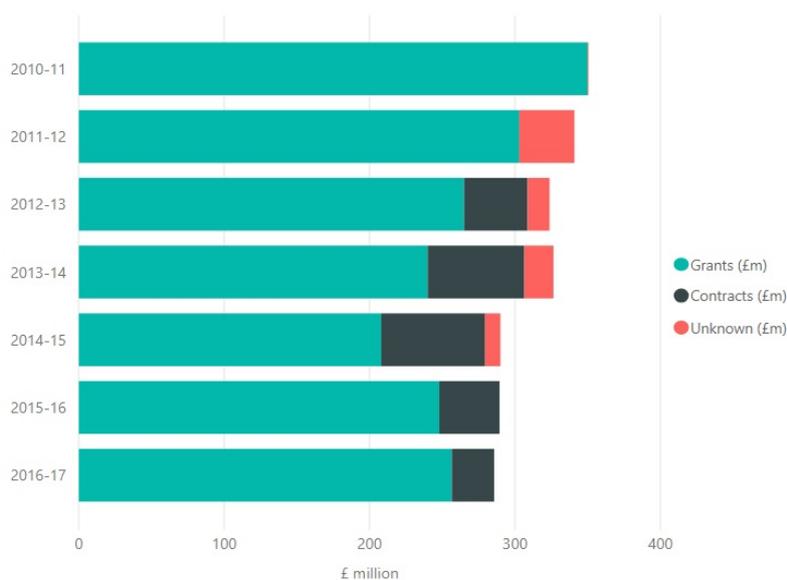


Fig 1: Welsh Government funding of the third sector. For a fuller breakdown, visit www.wcva.org.uk/datahub.

The value of contracts from Welsh Government to the third sector to provide public services dropped from £71.5 million to £42.4 million between 2014-15 and 2016-17, a fall of 59%.

Figures for local authority funding of the sector are unavailable.

The overall decline in public funding has been plugged by increases in funding from alternative sources. The latest data available for charitable giving shows that public donations to charities have risen from £382.2 million to £416.1 million, representing 35% of charities' income from 2013-14 to 2015-16 (fig 2).

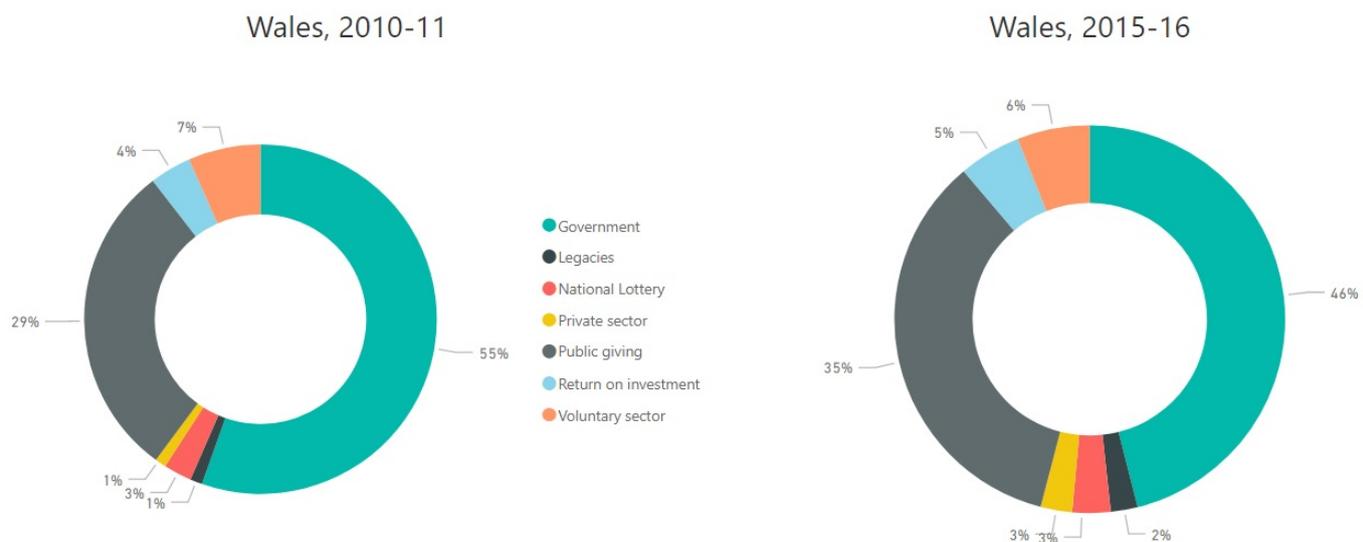


Fig 2: Funding of general charities: income by source and year. For a fuller breakdown, visit www.wcva.org.uk/datahub

Welsh charities' income remains almost half the UK average, according to new data. The total figure for charity sector income per head of population in Wales is £386, almost half of England, where charitable income per head is £767. Wales remains well behind the overall UK figure of £734 per head.

Charities are essential for the benefit of Welsh society. However, as government funding of services decreases, there is pressure on charities to pick up the slack. We cannot assume they can continue to do this.

WCVA Chief Executive Ruth Marks said: 'The third sector in Wales continues to operate at a disadvantage compared to the rest of the UK. Austerity has seen a sharp reduction in government funding in recent years. Efforts made by charities against this backdrop are outstanding; without these organisations many Welsh communities would now be facing deeper crises. We urge third sector organisations to continue to explore every avenue possible to generate and diversify income.'

The [Third Sector Data Hub](http://www.thirdsector.org.uk) allows its users to examine in detail statistical information relating to the whole of the third sector in Wales, on themes such as income, volunteering, geography and workforce and is unique in the UK.

*Data excludes income from Housing Associations.

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Notes to editors

- WCVA's Third Sector Data Hub is the first tool of its type in the UK. It launched in March 2018. To browse the Data Hub visit www.wcva.org.uk/datahub
- WCVA is the national membership organisation for the third sector in Wales. Our vision is for the third sector and volunteering to thrive and improve well-being for all. We do this by *influencing, connecting and enabling*.

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