

Mali Jenkins Fund January – December 2011

Summary

There are still uneven numbers of applications from across the UK. This shows in the information gathered here from 2011, and this is similar to the situation last year.

Although it is expected that continued Government spending cuts will continue to lead to increased demand on the voluntary sector in general, and the Mali Jenkins Fund in particular, applications during 2011 were slightly down on 2010. We did however fund slightly more applications

There has also been an increase in applications for items for people who are living in residential care homes. This may be due to the financial difficulties that many homes are facing, but it can be problematic at times as it raises the issue of ensuring that the home takes appropriate responsibility for the well being of their residents.

During the September Parkinson's Together events, we asked groups to look at the possibility of establishing a regional element to the operation of the fund. Whilst this was initially seen as a positive step, following discussion at the events, there were votes in favour of the fund remaining as it is currently established.

Following these events, there was publicity about the fund in the Parkinson Magazine. The combination of the events and the magazine article was responsible for a big increase in the number of applications received for the November Panel meeting. The fund was also marketed to Professionals via the regular professional's e newsletter.

Over the course of 2011, we have worked closely with the Major Gifts team to investigate fund raising opportunities for the fund. This has proved very successful and they were able to obtain a number of significant donations to the Mali Jenkins Fund from Trusts

The impact grants can have – feedback

In general, the feedback has also stated that applicants have found the application process straightforward, efficient and easy to understand.

Riser recliner chair	It's made a great change to my life - so much easier to get on my feet. I hope it gives me many more years of comfort. Cannot thank you enough.
Wheelchair with powerpack	This wheelchair has made a lot of difference as we can both go shopping together in town centre and we cannot thank you enough for this wheelchair with powerpack.
Carpets	The carpet Mali Jenkins funded for me has made a lot of difference to my wellbeing. My home feels warmer which makes a lot of difference to my joint pains, and to a degree has helped my depression.
Riser recliner chair	Thank you so much for £1,000 cheque towards my husband's riser recliner chair, it had been made to measure to a very high standard and is very comfortable and easy to use. I no longer dread trying to get him up, it's a godsend to us both. Thank you.
Scooter	Dear Trust members, please accept my grateful thanks for your contribution towards my eclipse scooter. This has enabled me to get about in various towns that we visit and has given me a measure of independence which I was in danger of losing. Many thanks.
Stairlift	A huge difference. Mum can go up the stairs and not be knackered after going up and down and not frightened if she is going to fall down them. Brilliant, thanks.
Computer	It makes a great difference in the sense that I can maintain my role in the Parkinson's committee by receiving and typing the minutes of the meetings. Being able to shop online is also a great help as my mobility is sometimes affected.

Relocation costs The new mattress is firmer and more comfortable and this makes it easier for me to move about in bed and get in and out of bed. The bedding / duvet has made a great improvement in how I sleep at night - it is easier to pull over me and to get out from under when I need to get up at night. The table and chairs enable me to have a civilized meal with my sons. The table is sturdy enough to support me when I use it to lever myself up.

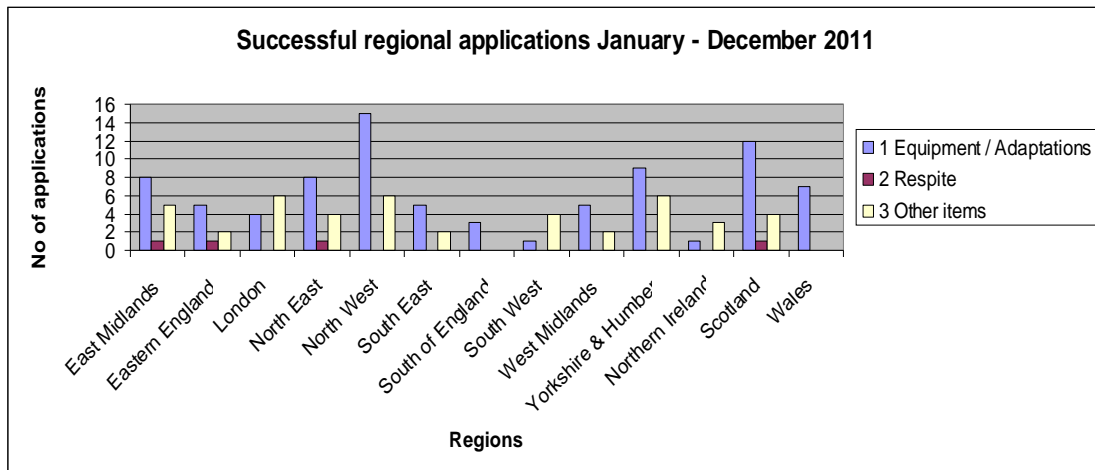
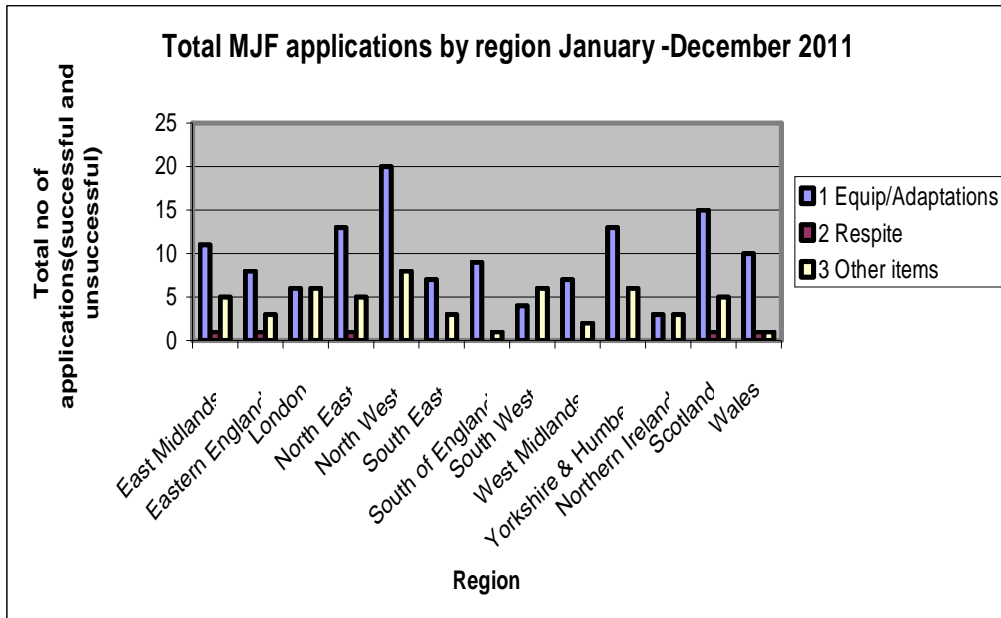
Vantage Lite communication device I would like to thank you personally for your assistance in making this application as simple and easy as possible. We are so grateful to all the decision makers involved in the making of this grant which has helped to make his remaining years so much happier and unrestricted. We know only too well how very difficult times are at present financially and your continued support is vital to our work. This provision will help in so many ways. It will allow him to communicate with those around him and to participate in many social activities. This will ease his frustration at not being able to make himself understood; help to increase his confidence and his independence levels.

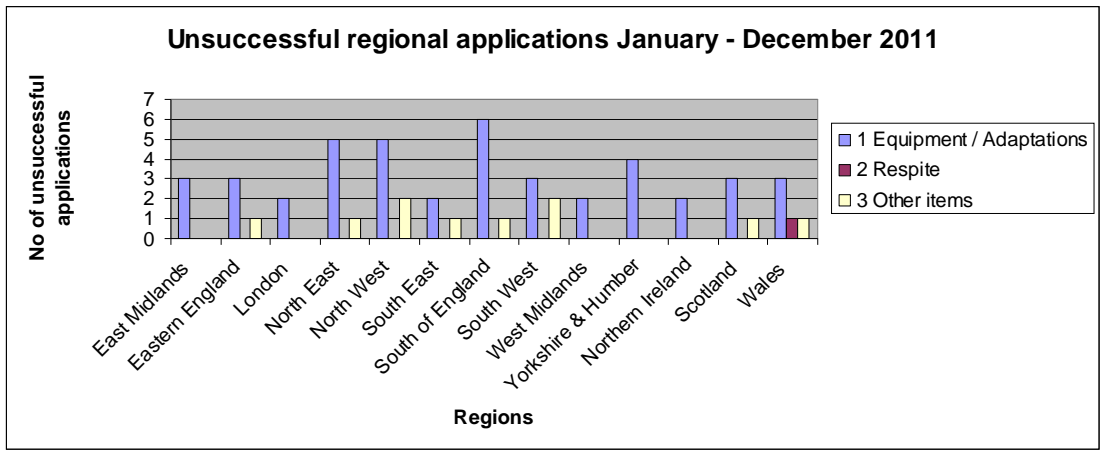
Who is applying to the Mali Jenkins Fund?

There were **189** applications to the fund from January – December 2011, of which **135** were successful and **54** were unsuccessful. This compares with 2010 when there were 199 applications, 132 of which were successful and 67 unsuccessful.

There are uneven numbers of applications from across the UK. This indicates that the fund is not as heavily promoted in some regions as others

In 2011, there were been a large number of applications from the North West region, with an increase in applications from the North East region compared with 2010. There has been a decrease in applications from the South East, South of England, South West and West Midlands regions. London again has low level of applications when measured against its population and it might be worthwhile looking at how usage here can be raised.

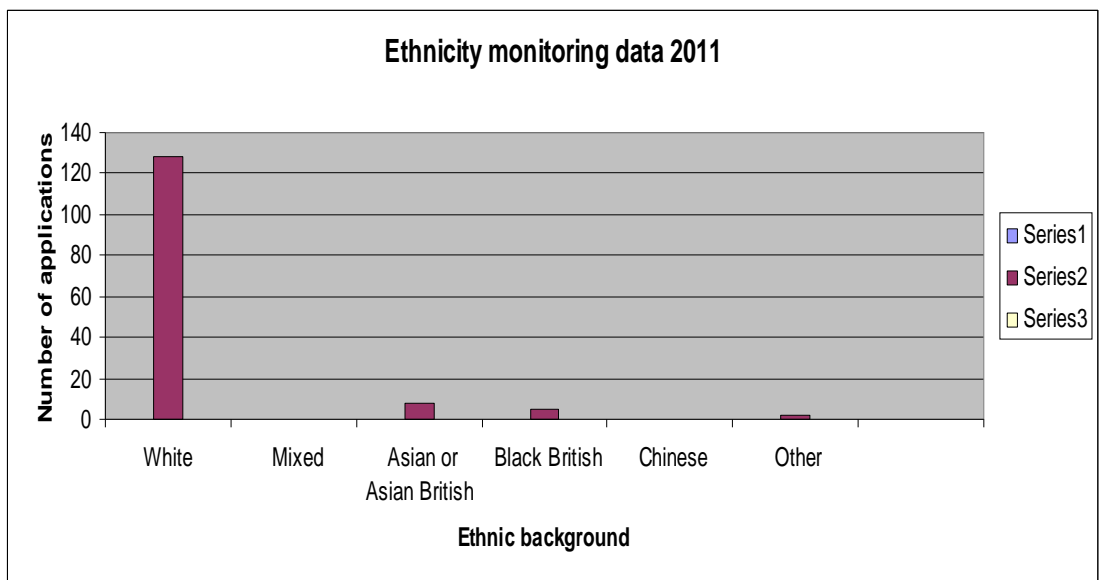




Ethnic monitoring

Of the applicants who answered this question, the majority of applicants described their ethnic background as white UK, and this analysis of the ethnic background of applicants shows a very similar analysis to that of 2010.

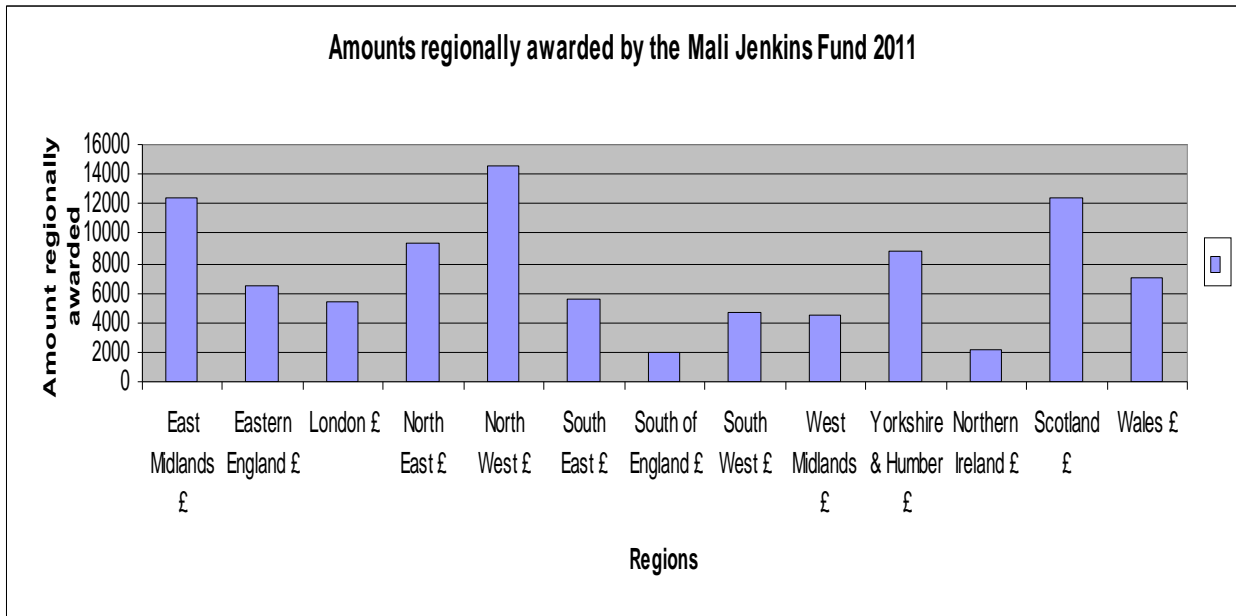
A number of applicants chose not to answer this question, so the data is not fully comprehensive.



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Amounts regionally awarded

The three regions receiving the highest levels of funding during 2011 were North West, Scotland and East Midlands

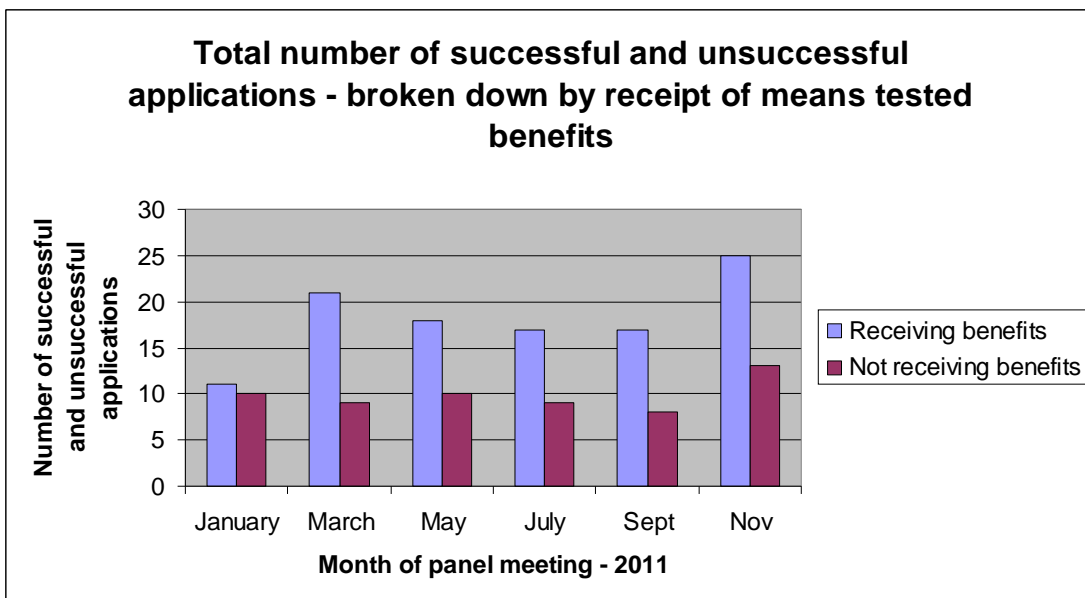


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Applicants receiving benefits

The Nov 2011 panel meeting received the greatest number of applications following publicity earlier in the year and most of these applicants were receiving means tested benefits.

We had the least applications from people in Jan 2011, with almost equal numbers of applicants receiving means tested benefits, and not receiving benefits.



Conclusion

The Mali Jenkins Fund continues to offer an important source of support to people affected by Parkinson's

The number of applications and the range of items that are requested, is increasing and it is important that we continue to review the way in which the fund operates to ensure that it is focused those in greatest need.

We plan to have a Focus Group Day in 2012 to review how the fund operates and look at how we respond to requests that do not fit clearly into any of the current categories. Any learning from this process can then be used to revise the way the Mali Jenkins Fund is managed.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything in connection with the MJF please contact Lisa Poole or Tim Moore in the Advisory Service Team