

Each year, £'millions of grants are handed out by UK government departments, other UK funding agencies, such as RDAs, and through European Union programmes. The recipients of these grants include private companies, charities, other 'not for profit' organisations, as well as public bodies such as local authorities.

Some grants are provided to organisations for specific purposes and the grant paying body, when allocating the grant monies, seeks to attach detailed conditions to the expenditure. In this case, it requires a separate report by the recipient organisation on the eligibility and/or use of the grant monies.

For all grants of any substance, the reports and claims have to be accompanied by an assurance certificate from an independent accountant.

The specific requirements of the funders vary from scheme to scheme and it is important that these are clearly met in order to avoid any details in grant payments to you, the claimant.

The accountants which you use for this exercise can be your auditors, but that is not necessary because it is a totally separate exercise. Indeed, it may well be that an experienced local independent firm will be able to deal with these certificates much more efficiently and cost effectively than a large national or international practice.

Examples of grants dealt with by Rawlinsons include:

- The Technology Strategy Board
- Grants for Research and Development
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

