The Research Excellence Grant funding formula

1.   The Research Excellence Grant (REG) is a formula driven funding model that is designed to serve the following principles:

-   Support excellence wherever it is found in the research base.
-   Ensure research in Scottish universities is developed and enhanced to ensure Scotland remains globally competitive and attractive to the best researchers
-   Recognise and reward the effective translation of research 'impact' as measured by the Research Excellence Framework, including effective business support by universities.
-   Uphold the principles of the dual support system, including contributions to the full economic costs from Research Council, charity, European and other research income (including private, public and the third sector (charities, voluntary and social enterprise) to retain confidence in the Scottish university research base.
-   Address our responsibilities to support the personal, professional and career development of researchers.

Research Excellence Framework

2.   The REG funding model is informed by the Research Excellence Framework (REF) - a UK-wide system for assessing research in UK higher education institutions. It is conducted jointly by all four UK higher education funding bodies.

3.   The first REF ran in 2014. Panels of experts in individual academic subject areas assessed institutions' research submissions under three broad headings:

-   Research outputs – the quality of research publications and other forms of research output.
-   Impact – the benefits delivered to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.
-   Research environment – the vitality and sustainability of the research environment, including the contribution to the wider discipline or research base.

4.   The outcomes were published in December 2014. Further information is available on the REF website.

REG formula

5.   Funding allocations are calculated in accordance with the following formula:

REG = REGa + REGb + REGc where:

- **REGa:** supports quality and is allocated on volume, quality and a weighting (previously the cost factor). It is calculated at each of the 36 units of assessment for each institution and then summed. SFC is allocating £169.8m to REGa in AY 2018-19. This includes the premium for STEMM disciplines of £5.9m for AY 2018-19.

- **REGb:** is allocated in proportion to the amount of RCUK and other competitively funded (non-Charity) research income each institution receives - i.e. if they secured 10% of Scotland's research income they will be allocated 10% of this grant. SFC is allocating £40.7m to REGb in 2018-19.

- **REGc**: is allocated in proportion to the amount of competitively-won charity research income each institution receives - i.e. if they secured 10% of Scotland's charity research income they will be allocated 10% of this grant. SFC is allocating £25.5m to REGc in 2018-19.

Further detail is available in the technical guidance.