Detailed notes for guidance on completion of 2018-19 financial statements

Introduction

1. These guidance notes are designed to supplement the Council’s Accounts Direction.

2. The guidance has been prepared with a view to improving the quality and consistency of financial reporting throughout the college sector.
General

3. The Statement of Recommended Practice for Further and Higher Education (SORP) was issued in March 2014 and is effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015. The SORP reflects the changes to UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice following the issue of FRS 100, 101 and 102. A copy of the SORP and supporting materials can be found on the Universities UK website (https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/sorp-accounting-higher-education.aspx).

4. As noted in the SORP, institutions\(^1\) must apply all requirements under FRS 102 ‘The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland’, relevant legislation and accounts direction from Funding Bodies applicable to the institution.

5. Incorporated colleges and Glasgow Colleges’ Regional Board\(^2\) are also required to comply with the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) and the Scottish Public Finance Manual (SPFM).

6. A new SORP (“the 2019 SORP”) was issued in October 2018 and this must be adopted for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and thereafter. Early adoption is permitted as described in Section 27 (‘Transition to the 2019 SORP’) of the 2019 SORP.

SFC and Regional Strategic Body funding

7. The note analysing funding council grants or grants funded by Regional Strategic Bodies (RSBs) should provide sufficient information to allow the reader to understand the major types of grant received from each funding body. Annex A contains a model note which institutions should adopt as far as possible.

8. Any significant one-off or ring-fenced grants should be identified on a separate line. Whilst smaller grants may be grouped together under the heading “other”, this should not represent a significant portion of the total grants received.

Tuition fees and education contracts

9. Institutions should analyse tuition fees and contracts in accordance with the model notes given in Annex B.

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\(^1\) The term institution includes colleges and Glasgow Colleges’ Regional Board.

\(^2\) Glasgow Colleges’ Regional Board’s accounts are prepared on a consolidated basis, incorporating the results of City of Glasgow College, Glasgow Clyde College and Glasgow Kelvin College. New College Lanarkshire’s accounts are also prepared on a consolidated basis, incorporating the results of South Lanarkshire College.
Grants from arms-length foundations

10. Institutions should disclose separately any revenue or capital grants received from arms-length foundations.

Student support funds

11. Paragraph 16.9 of the SORP states that “Where the institution disburses funds it has received as paying agent on behalf of a funding body or other body, and has no beneficial interest or risks related to the receipt and subsequent disbursement of the funds, these funds should be excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income of the institution.”

12. What constitutes an agency arrangement will depend upon each individual fund and its own individual characteristics. However, the following can be considered to be agency arrangements:

- Further education bursary funds.
- Discretionary funds.
- Education maintenance allowances.

13. Accordingly, these should be excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income and the movements disclosed in a note to the accounts. Where incorporated colleges have used the cash budget for priorities\(^3\) to fund student support costs in excess of funding they should record this expenditure in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. To ensure comparability between institutions, we recommend that the standard note shown in Annex C is adopted.

14. FE and HE childcare funds received by institutions should be included in the main Statement of Comprehensive Income as institutions have more discretion in the manner in which these funds are disbursed and these funds do not therefore meet the definition of agency funds. The income from childcare funds should be identified as a separate line in the Funding Council income note. Related expenditure from the fund should be shown as a separate line within the appropriate expenditure heading. A note of the movements on childcare funds should be disclosed in the notes in accordance with the model note given in Annex C. The guidance section on the Funding Council website provides further details of childcare guidance for FE and HE students studying at colleges.

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\(^3\) Glasgow Colleges’ Regional Board does not itself have a cash budget for priorities but the consolidated position of the assigned colleges should be reflected in the regional accounts.
15. Any in-year redistributions agreed by the Council should also be reflected in the notes. Amounts to be clawed back should be identified as repayable to Funding Council or other body in the student support fund note.

16. Institutions should have in place systems which minimise incorrect payments of student support funds. However, where there has been overpayment for any reason and funds are recovered these should be credited to the fund balance at the time of recovery. The administrative costs of recovering these overpayments, in line with other administrative costs relating to student support fund payments, should be met from core funds.

17. A link to extant guidance relevant to non-advanced student support funds from SFC is given in Annex D.

**Staff Costs**

18. For consistency and clarity the headings shown in the staff costs note should be analysed as shown in Annex E. As in previous years, agency staff costs should be included as a separate line under ‘Other operating expenses’.

19. The full harmonisation costs of National Bargaining support staff and middle management will not be confirmed until the national Job Evaluation exercise is carried out, the outcome of which will be implemented with effect from 1 September 2018. Support staff and middle management Job Evaluation costs (and associated grant) should be accounted for, based on Colleges Scotland’s February 2019 costings.

**Non-profit distributing projects**

20. In accounting for the unitary charge payment, the split between the running cost and loan repayment elements should be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

**Donations to arms-length foundations**

21. Any donation to an arms-length foundation should be disclosed above the operating surplus line, under the expenditure headings, in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The donation should be clearly disclosed in order to ensure transparency within the annual report and accounts.

**Summary pension note**

22. A model summary pension note disclosing SOCI charges and Balance Sheet movements is shown at Annex F. The suggested note is included within the guidance notes with a view to generating consistency of reporting between colleges of the key SOCI charges and Balance Sheet movements. The suggested note will form part of the wider disclosures on pensions required in the
accounts though this additional information is not reflected in Annex F. It is important that the note sets out the non-cash movements charged to the SOCI (service costs and net interest cost) as these will also be disclosed and cross-referenced on the adjusted operating position table.

**Early retirement provisions**

23. SFC will, as in previous years, calculate and provide guidance on an appropriate discount factor (net interest rate) as at 31 July and this will be emailed to Directors of Finance in August. A spreadsheet for calculation of the enhanced pension provision, incorporating detailed instructions, will be available on SFC’s website.

24. It is also possible for institutions to perform in-year valuations of the enhanced early retirement provision calculations using the interest rate derived from this method by refreshing the relevant numbers in this calculation.

**Adjusted operating position (AOP)**

25. The SOCI presents the financial performance during the accounting period in accordance with the SORP. The AOP is intended to reflect the underlying operating performance after allowing for material one-off or distorting items required by the SORP or other items outwith the control of the institution. The AOP is therefore designed to smooth any volatility in reported results arising from FRS 102 and also to recognise that some of the reported costs do not have an immediate cash impact on the institution. Institutions should explain what these adjustments are and why they have been made. All adjusting items included in this calculation must be visible (i.e. separately disclosed) in the SOCI or notes as appropriate and should be cross-referenced from the AOP table.

26. To ensure correct completion of the AOP and consistency across the sector, institutions should submit the AOP calculation, together with draft accounts, to SFC for review prior to the accounts being signed off. Institutions are encouraged to submit the AOP calculation as early as possible to allow time for review.
### Model note: SFC and Regional Strategic Body income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>£’000</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>SFC / RSB FE recurrent grant</td>
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<td>(including fee waiver)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UHI recurrent grant – HE provision</td>
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<tr>
<td>FE childcare funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital grants received</td>
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<tr>
<td>Release of deferred capital grants</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other SFC / RSB grants – FE provision</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other UHI grants – HE provision</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</table>
Model note: Tuition fees and education contracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018-19 £’000</th>
<th>2017-18 £’000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FE fees – UK</td>
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<td>FE fees – EU</td>
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<tr>
<td>FE fees – non EU</td>
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<td>HE fees</td>
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<td>SDS contracts</td>
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<td>Education contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Model note: FE Bursaries and other student support funds

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FE Bursary £’000</td>
<td>EMAs £’000</td>
<td>Other £’000</td>
<td>Total £’000</td>
<td>Total £’000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance b/fwd</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation received in year</td>
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<td>Expenditure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repaid to Funding Council as clawback</td>
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<tr>
<td>College contribution to funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intra-region allocations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virements</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance c/fwd</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Represented by:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Repayable to Funding Council as clawback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repayable to region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retained by college for students</td>
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Note:
- the SAAS Discretionary fund should be included in the “other” column; and
- the expenditure included above should be net of recoveries made in the year.
## Model note: FE and HE childcare funds (college sector)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018-19 £’000</th>
<th>2017-18 £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance b/fwd</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation received in year</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repaid to funding council as clawback</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>College contribution to funds</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intra-region allocations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Virements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance c/fwd</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Represented by:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Repayable to funding council as clawback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repayable to region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retained by college for students</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Extant SFC guidance for student support funds

1. Student support guidance for academic year 2018-19 can be found on the guidance section of the Funding Council’s website. (http://www.sfc.ac.uk/funding/college-funding/student-support/student-support-guidance/student-support-guidance.aspx)

2. Guidance notes on the audit requirements for EMAs for 2018-19 and the audit requirements for student support funds for 2018-19 were published on 30 May 2019 as follows:


## Model note: Staff numbers and staff costs

### Staff numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Year ended 31 July 2019 Number</th>
<th>Year ended 31 July 2018 Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic / Teaching departments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic / Teaching services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Research grants and contracts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration and central services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premises</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering and residences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Staff costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Year ended 31 July 2019 £’000</th>
<th>Year ended 31 July 2018 £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic / Teaching departments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic / Teaching services</td>
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<td>Research grants and contracts</td>
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<td>Administration and central services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premises</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering and residences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional restructuring costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Model summary pension note

The analysis of amounts charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (SOCI) is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charged to staff costs:</th>
<th>Year ended 31 July 2019 £’000</th>
<th>Year ended 31 July 2018 £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current service costs</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>(2,400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past service costs</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>(100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total charged to staff costs</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>(2,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit/charge for net return on pension scheme:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest cost</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>(1,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net interest charged</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>(300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit/charge to other comprehensive income:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return on assets</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other experience</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gains and losses arising on changes in financial assumptions</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>(4,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial Gain/(Loss)</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total charge to the SOCI</td>
<td>xxx</td>
<td>(1,300)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analysis of the movement in deficit during the year:

| Deficit in scheme at start of year | (10,100) | (10,000) |
| Service costs                     | x        | (2,500)  |
| Employer contributions            | x        | 1,200    |
| Net interest costs                | x        | (300)    |
| Actuarial gain/(loss)             | x        | 1,500    |
| Deficit in scheme at end of year  | xx       | (10,100) |