



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

SFC ANNOUNCEMENT

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Access to Free Period Products FY 2024-25



Access to Free Period Products FY 2024-25

ISSUE DATE:	8 November 2024
REFERENCE:	SFC/AN/16/2024
SUMMARY:	Announcement of continued additional funding in Financial Year (FY) 2024-25 for access to free period products at colleges and universities.
FAO:	Principals/Directors, Finance Directors, Chairs and Board Secretaries of Scotland's colleges and universities, and the general public.
FURTHER INFORMATION:	<p>CONTACT: Eilidh Fulton</p> <p>JOB TITLE: Senior Policy Officer</p> <p>DIRECTORATE: Access, Learning & Outcomes</p> <p>EMAIL: efulton@sfc.ac.uk</p>

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Access to free period products at colleges and universities for 2024-25

Summary

1. I am writing to announce continued additional funding to provide students access to free period products at colleges and universities in Financial Year (FY) 2024-25. This funding has been provided and allocated by the Scottish Government.

Context

2. The Scottish Government made a commitment in its 2017 'Programme for Government' to provide "access to free sanitary products to students in schools, colleges and universities". The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) [announced the first year of this funding in August 2018](#).
3. In November 2020, [the Period Products \(Free Provision\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021 \(the Act\) was passed by the Scottish Parliament](#). The main duties on local authorities and education providers in the Act came into effect on 15 August 2022. In October 2021 the Scottish Government [published guidance to support institutions in delivering these products](#).
4. There is therefore now a legal duty on colleges and universities to establish and maintain arrangements for period products to be available:
 - Free of charge.
 - During term time on their premises.
 - In at least one location in every building normally used by students.

Funding for period products 2024-25

5. The Scottish Government has provided funding for both colleges and universities for FY 2024-25, totaling £1.2 million. Funding has been allocated on the same basis as in FY 2023-24. A breakdown of funding allocations for individual colleges/regions and universities is shown in Annexes [A](#) and [B](#) respectively.
6. With the commencement of the Act, the duties on colleges and universities are less onerous than under the previous voluntary policy. For example, in previous SFC guidance, colleges and universities were asked to make products available to students outwith term-time. However, under the Act, the duty is to make products obtainable in at least one location in each building normally used by students, and only during term-time.
7. Funding allocations are therefore expected to continue to be sufficient to deliver the duties under the legislation, however, where funding allows, we would encourage

institutions to deliver more products for students where possible. We also encourage institutions to work with their Students' Association where possible to ensure student needs are met.

8. Subject to the acceptance of this offer of funding, allocations for colleges and universities, as set out in Annexes A and B, will be made in December 2024 to deliver the duties.
9. As stated in the recent letter from Scottish Government ([Annex C](#)), funding for Access to Free Period Products will be baselined in FY 2025-26 and the additional bid-in fund previously on offer to institutions will no longer be available.

Conditions of funding

10. This funding must only be used for the purpose(s) for which it is being allocated, as set out in this announcement. SFC retains the right to audit relevant institutional documentation to satisfy itself that this is the case (and the institution undertakes that it will provide such assistance as SFC reasonably requires).
11. Institutions should ensure that a suitable level of provision is available for any students on campus but are not required to provide products (such as through voucher or delivery services) for students who are off campus, including hybrid learning. Students who are at home can contact their local authority to access free period products.

Acceptance of grant

12. Institutions are invited to formally accept this offer of funding by writing to Graeme Scotland, Senior Budgeting & Reporting Officer, email: grantacceptance@sfc.ac.uk by **28 November 2024**.

Further information

13. Should you require any further information, please contact Eilidh Fulton, Senior Policy Office, email: efulton@sfc.ac.uk.



Richard Maconachie, FCCA
Director of Finance

Annex A: College funding for access to free period products FY 2024-25

College/Region	Period product funding	Admin funding	Total funding for AFPPs FY 2024-25*
	£	£	£
Ayrshire College	19,286	1,657	21,000
Borders College	5,341	459	5,750
Dumfries & Galloway College	7,955	683	8,750
Dundee & Angus College	20,744	1,782	22,500
Edinburgh College	31,118	2,673	33,750
Fife College	19,574	1,682	21,250
Forth Valley College	16,361	1,406	17,750
Glasgow Region	77,851	6,688	84,500
Highlands & Islands Region	25,614	2,200	27,750
Lanarkshire Region	26,202	2,251	28,500
Newbattle Abbey College	198	17	250
North East Scotland College	24,150	2,075	26,250
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig	1,700	146	1,750
SRUC	4,957	426	5,500
West College Scotland	35,190	3,023	38,250
West Lothian College	12,591	1,082	13,750
Total	328,830	28,250	357,250

* Rounded to the nearest £250

Annex B: University funding for access to free period products FY 2024-25

Institution	Period product funding	Admin funding	Total funding for AFPPs FY 2024-25*
	£	£	£
Aberdeen, University of	50,371	4,327	54,750
Abertay University	12,447	1,069	13,500
Dundee, University of	59,844	5,141	65,000
Edinburgh Napier University	44,104	3,789	48,000
Edinburgh, University of	121,700	10,455	132,250
Glasgow Caledonian University	57,221	4,916	62,250
Glasgow School of Art	8,862	761	9,500
Glasgow, University of	105,289	9,045	114,250
Heriot-Watt University	25,593	2,199	27,750
Highlands & Islands, University of the	33,668	2,892	36,500
Open University in Scotland	-	-	-
Queen Margaret University	23,261	1,998	25,250
Robert Gordon University	44,308	3,806	48,000
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	4,285	368	4,750
SRUC	5,364	461	5,750
St Andrews, University of	36,204	3,110	39,250
Stirling, University of	46,727	4,014	50,750
Strathclyde, University of	68,152	5,855	74,000
West of Scotland, University of the	63,109	5,422	68,500
Total	810,508	69,631	880,000

* Rounded to the nearest £250

Annex C: Scottish Government Letter

**Directorate for Tackling Child Poverty and
Social Justice**

Tackling Child Poverty Financial Wellbeing
Division

E:

financialwellbeing@gov.scot

College Principals
Principals/Directors of Scottish Higher
Education Institutions

cc Scottish Funding
Council Colleges
Scotland Universities
Scotland

11 September
2024

Dear
Colleagues,

ACCESS TO FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS – MONITORING AND EVALUATION AND BID- IN FUND

Following discussions with the Scottish Funding Council, Colleges Scotland and Universities Scotland, I am writing to advise you that from the financial year 2025-26 the Scottish Government will no longer provide a separate ring-fenced allocation to the Scottish Funding Council to fund access to free period products in colleges and universities. Instead, this funding will be added to the core grant provided to colleges and universities for 2025-26.

This change is a year earlier than planned and follows the baselining of funding for local authorities for access to free period products from financial year 2024-25.

Reference to the funding allocated to support colleges and universities to exercise their functions under the [Period Products \(Free Provision\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#) (the Act), will be included in the Scottish Funding Council's annual budget letter.

In addition, the Scottish Government has considered the need to carry out next year's planned independent review and impact evaluation, and the future of the Bid-In Fund, the decisions on which are set out below.

Monitoring and evaluation originally planned for 2025 and the Bid-In Fund

The full independent review and impact evaluation, originally planned for 2025, will no longer take place and the Bid-In Fund (the Fund) will not continue. In addition, the planned follow-up survey, to understand the attitudes and experiences of people accessing free period products, will also no longer go ahead.

The Fund was only envisaged to be available until funding was baselined. However, only a small number of applications have been received since the Fund was introduced, which indicates that the annual funding amount allocated to most further and higher education providers is sufficient. This is likely due to the fact that the duty on colleges and universities under the Act, to provide access to free products during term time, is less onerous than the previous voluntary provision on which the funding was based.

Future review of costs

While there will be no formal review of the funding in 2025, future consideration will be given as to whether a 10 year review of funding to support compliance with the Act will still be required.

I hope this provides clarity on our approach in these areas. If you have any questions, please contact our Financial Wellbeing team at financialwellbeing@gov.scot who are happy to help.

Yours
sincerely

Dr Elaine Moir
Head of the Financial Wellbeing
Unit