

THE EDUCATION (ACCESS FUNDS) DISCRETIONARY FUNDS (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 2025

DIRECTION MADE BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTION 73ZA OF THE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 TO ADMINISTER SUMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING GRANTS TO COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION

The Scottish Ministers have chosen to pay grants to colleges of further education under section 73(c) and (f) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (“the 1980 Act”) in accordance with the Education (Access Funds) (Scotland) Regulations 1990 (“the 1990 Regulations”) for the purpose of providing financial assistance to students undertaking a course of education in the academic year 2025-26.

The Scottish Ministers have chosen to direct the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council and University of the Highlands and Islands to administer and pay those grants on their behalf in accordance with section 73ZA of the 1980 Act with effect from 17 September 2025.

Direction to administer sums

1. The Scottish Ministers direct—
(a) the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council; and
(b) University of the Highlands and Islands,
to administer and pay sums applied by the Scottish Ministers for the purpose of providing financial assistance for students receiving education by a college of further education under section 73(c) and (f) of the 1980 Act and the 1990 Regulations to colleges of further education in accordance with the conditions set out below.

Conditions

2. Payments may only be made in connection with the provision of financial assistance for students undertaking a course in the 2025-26 academic year.
3. Payments may only be made by the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council to colleges of further education which are fundable post-16 education bodies within the meaning of section 6(2) of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”).
4. Payments may only be made by University of the Highlands and Islands to a college which is assigned to that regional strategic body by order made under section 7C of the 2005 Act.
5. The Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council and University of the Highlands and Islands must ensure that any college in receipt of a payment complies with the provisions of the 1990 Regulations and any determinations made by the Scottish Ministers under those Regulations.

Revocation

6. This direction supersedes the Education (Access Funds) Discretionary Funds (Scotland) Direction 2024 made on 1 October 2024 which is now revoked.

Dr Naureen Ahmad
Deputy Director, Learner Experience Division
Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naureen', followed by a circular flourish or stamp. The signature is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Date: 17 September 2025