

Payment to the former Principal of the University of Aberdeen – A review by the Scottish Funding Council

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Committee with the report which was published on February 18th 2020 following the review of payment to the former Principal of the University of Aberdeen.

The report

2. A copy of the finalised report is attached.
3. When the report was published the University confirmed that it had already repaid the £119,000 to SFC and it is now considering options in relation to the remainder, which will be decided at its next Court meeting.
4. The University is also taking forward actively the recommendation to conduct a review of its externally-facilitated review of its governance procedures and culture, building on the work already started by the Interim Secretary. The University is liaising with the SFC executive on the arrangements for that exercise, which will also be considered at its next Court meeting.
5. The Council executive has considered the Council's existing requirements in this area (summarised at Annex A to the report) in light of this case. As is reflected in the report, the issues that arose in this case were about compliance with SFC's existing requirements. Nothing was identified in the review which indicated that there were any aspects of our existing requirements which need to be revised. However, it is the case that we are about to review all aspects of the financial memoranda, which will provide an opportunity for further reflection.

Recommendation

6. The Committee is invited to agree with Council executive's assessment of required consequential actions.

Publication

7. This paper will be published on the Council website and the attached reports will be withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Section 36: Confidentiality.

Further information

8. Contact: Martin Fairbairn, Chief Operating Officer, (direct line: 0131 313 6524; email: mfairbairn@sfc.ac.uk).