



SFC Announcement

Access to free sanitary products 2019-20

Issue date: 17 December 2019

Reference: SFC/AN/18/2019

Summary: Announcement of continued additional funding for access to free sanitary products at colleges and universities in 2019-20.

FAO: Principals/Directors, Finance Directors, and Board Secretaries of Scotland's universities and colleges.

Further information: **Contact:** Lorna MacDonald
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Access to free sanitary products at colleges and universities in 2019-20

Summary

1. I am writing to announce continued additional funding to provide students access to free sanitary products at colleges and universities in 2019-20. This funding has been provided by the Scottish Government, and allocated based on a funding methodology developed 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*". SFC announced the first year of this funding in August 2018¹. The purpose and principles behind this commitment have not changed since the original announcement.
3. The guidance for 2018-19 specified that the approach to allocating funding for future years would be reviewed when more robust data was available. Monitoring information regarding actual uptake was gathered in February and September 2019. This has evidenced a higher than anticipated underspend of the 2018-19 allocations.
4. A full review of the first full year of delivery is currently being done and future funding proposals will be considered following that.

Funding for sanitary products

5. A total of £2.1 million is being made available by the Scottish Government for the Financial Year (FY) 2019-20, i.e. the period April 2019 to March 2020; £0.9 million for colleges and £1.2 million for universities.
6. This split of funding for FY 2019-20 is broken down in the table below:

	Colleges	Universities	Total
Funding for delivery of sanitary products to students	£898,618	£1,176,487	£2,075,105

7. The above funding has been calculated (based on the Scottish Government's methodology), as follows:

¹<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/announcements/announcements-2018/SFCAN132018.aspx>

- Female student numbers – excluding school pupils – of 250,967 and an assumed average uptake of sanitary products of 35% of those student numbers.
 - A ‘per-head price’ of £40, which comprises £35 for sanitary product costs and £5 for administration and delivery costs. (The £35 product cost is based on average usage of 300 products per year; equating to 11.6p per product).
 - Final allocations have then been adjusted to reflect the available budget.
8. Any underspend reported in the biannual reporting framework has been netted-off the payment of that allocation, i.e. funds already held from the 2018-19 allocation have been taken into account, resulting in an adjusted payment.
 9. A breakdown of funding for individual colleges and universities is shown in Annexes A and B respectively.
 10. Funding for universities will be paid in equal instalments in February and March 2020. Colleges should draw down funding from their allocations, as required, over the same period.

Conditions of grant


11. This funding must only be used for the purpose(s) for which it is being allocated. (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.)
12. Institutions should meet the needs of students through a range of good quality products and brands that are recognisable and attractive to students. The funding allocations have been calculated on a product unit price which allows institutions to do so.
13. Institutions should continue to implement local delivery models that take account of the views and needs of their students (in both term-time and holidays) and the Guiding Principles set out in the original guidance letter.

Acceptance of grant

14. Institutions are invited to formally accept this offer of funding by writing to Graeme Scotland, Senior Budgeting & Reporting Officer, email: gscotland@sfc.ac.uk by **17 January 2020**.

Further information

15. Please contact Emma Roberts, Policy/Analysis Officer, tel: 0131 313 6570, email: eroberts@sfc.ac.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lorna MacDonald
Director of Finance