

01 December 2020

Dear Principal

Guidance on steps to complete the Outcome Agreement cycle for AY2020-21

I am writing to provide you with an update and further reassurance on the steps we will take to complete the Outcome Agreement cycle for AY2020-21, and the associated deadlines. This follows the publication in October of our report from Phase One of the SFC Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability.

Revised submission date for interim Outcome Agreements

We have taken account of the significant developments over the last few weeks, including the First Minister's announcement of a move to Tier 4 in eleven council areas, recognising the additional pressures that this places on you and your staff. As a result, we have reviewed the previous deadlines set for Interim Outcome Agreements and Self Evaluation Reports, revising the submission dates for these to end of January 2021.

The Interim Outcome Agreement Guidance is issued alongside this letter and confirms the revised deadlines. As always, SFC Outcome Agreement Managers are committed to providing ongoing support to you and your senior colleagues as you complete the process for AY2020-21.

In revisiting these deadlines, we have worked closely with colleges and universities to understand the current challenges and constraints across learning, teaching and research during the ongoing emergency period.

We are grateful to all colleagues who have engaged with us and are aware of the level of commitment and resource that has been required to continue to adapt to the current operating environment and protect the safety and well-being of students and staff.

Scottish Funding Council
Apex 2
97 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HD
T 0131 313 6500
F 0131 313 6501
www.sfc.ac.uk

As we go forward, know that we greatly appreciate your engagement on priority issues, to help ensure we can continue to respond – together – to the challenges and opportunities facing our education and skills system.

I trust that this information is useful. Please do continue to communicate regularly and share any concerns or issues with us at the earliest point.

Once again, thank you for everything you are doing to support students, staff and our communities in these challenging times. Thank you also for the important work which is underway within our colleges and universities to make a firm commitment – and an impressive contribution – to Scotland’s future economic recovery.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dunphy'.

James Dunphy

Director of Access, Learning and Outcomes