



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Assessment of procedures

SFC Call for Information

Issue Date: 11 February 2021

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Issue date: 11 February 2021

Deadline: 30 April 2021

Reference: SFC/CI/03/2021

Summary: This Call for Information requests institutions, following the publications of the independent QC-led reports, commissioned by the University of Strathclyde and Heriot-Watt University, to carry out a self-assessment of their own procedures against the key findings, implement any necessary improvements, and report on the outcome of that exercise.

FAO: Principals / Chairs / Board Secretaries of Scotland's colleges and universities

Further information: **Contact:** Andrew Millar
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Assessment of procedures

Assessment of procedures in response to University of Strathclyde Inquiry Report and Independent Review Report at Heriot-Watt University

Purpose

1. This Call for Information requests institutions, following the publications of the independent QC-led reports, commissioned by the University of Strathclyde and Heriot-Watt University, to carry out a self-assessment of their own procedures against the key findings, implement any necessary improvements, and report on the outcome of that exercise.

University of Strathclyde Inquiry Report

2. University of Strathclyde published, on 9 November 2020, the independent QC-led Inquiry Report into the University's handling of past complaints of sexual misconduct against a former member of staff. The report, along with a statement from the University's Principal and Vice Chancellor, can be downloaded through the following link:

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/whystrathclyde/news/statementfromprofessorsirjimcdonaldprincipalvicechancellor/>

3. The report was commissioned following the conviction of Kevin O'Gorman in 2019 for a range of offences committed while in employment at the University of Strathclyde.

Heriot-Watt University Independent Review

4. Kevin O'Gorman was employed subsequently at Heriot-Watt University which also commissioned an independent QC-led review of the systems and processes around his recruitment, the collation of complaints and concerns and his dismissal. The Heriot-Watt University report was published on 18 May 2020 and this report, along with a statement from the University's Principal and Vice Chancellor is available through the following link:

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/news/articles/2020/heriot-watt-university-welcomes-publication.htm>

Information requested

5. Both reports will be of interest to all institutions' governing bodies and senior management teams. Given the serious nature of Kevin O'Gorman's crimes, it is important that the findings in the reports are carefully considered and acted upon. Institutions are therefore requested to carry out a self-assessment of

their own procedures against the key findings and implement any necessary improvements.

6. I would be grateful if you could provide a brief report summarising the outcome of your institution's self-assessment exercise against the key findings from the University of Strathclyde Inquiry Report and the Independent Review Report at Heriot-Watt University and, if appropriate, an action plan to address any issues that need to be addressed by 30 April 2021.
7. Electronic copies of the report and supporting documents should be sent to isg-returns@sfc.ac.uk.

Further information

8. Please contact Andrew Millar, Assistant Director, Finance, tel: 0131 313 6538, email: amillar@sfc.ac.uk or Dorothy Carson, Senior Financial Analyst, Finance, tel: 0131 313 6607 email: dcarson@sfc.ac.uk to discuss any aspect of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

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

Martin Fairbairn
Chief Operating Officer