

**SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING**

Minute of the meeting held Friday 12 April 2024 at 10am via *Microsoft Teams*

The 143rd meeting of the Scottish Funding Council [SFC] was held Friday 10th April 2024

- PRESENT:** Dr Mike Cantlay OBE (Chair); Ms Karen Watt (Chief Executive); Ms Lorna Jack (Vice Chair); Ms Sheila Duncan ; Ms Linda Hanna MBE; Ms Mhairi Harrington OBE; Professor Ewart Keep; Mr Andy Kerr; Professor Irene McAra-McWilliam OBE; Mr Grant Ritchie; Professor John Wallace CBE; Professor Lesley Yellowlees CBE.
- APOLOGIES:** Mr David Alexander; Professor Sir Peter Mathieson; Ms Louisa Baker (Deputy Director, Governance & Planning); Ms Lynne Raeside (Deputy Director, External Affairs).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Martin Boyle (Director Policy, Insights and Analysis); Dr Jacqui Brasted (Interim Director, Access, Learning and Outcomes); Ms Helen Cross (Director, Research & Innovation); Mr Richard Maconachie (Director of Finance); Mr Gordon Craig (Deputy Director, Tertiary Education Funding); Ms Gillian Phillips (Senior Governance Officer) (Clerk).

24/ 042: Welcome and Opening Remarks (Verbal)

1. The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and the relevant apologies were **noted**.

24/ 043: Conflict of Interest (Verbal)

2. The Chair reminded Board members of their responsibility to indicate whether they have, or may be perceived to have a conflict of interest under agenda item #3. Whilst no new declarations were reported, it was noted that Professor McAra McWilliam, Professor Yellowlees and Ms Hanna all had an interest under agenda item #3. It was therefore agreed that while they could remain for the introductory remarks , they would not be present for the substantive discussion, decision and approval of the indicative university funding allocations.

24/ 044: University Indicative Teaching Funding Allocations for AY 2024 25

3. The Board received and discussed the University Indicative Funding Allocations for the academic year 2024-25, presented by the Deputy Director Tertiary Education Funding. The challenging nature of the budget settlement was highlighted, and the Board was reminded that the Chair and Chief Executive had written to the Cabinet Secretary following her letter dated 14 March 2024, noting the Board's intention to explore a revised approach to funding distribution and savings options for the main university teaching grant budget.

4. *Discussion redacted.*
5. The Board thanked all those who had been involved in the production of the university funding allocations model, noting in particular the significant contribution of the funding team.
6. Thereafter, the Board:
 - (i) **Approved** the proposed indicative teaching funding allocations for universities in AY 2024-25 as outlined in the paper;
 - (ii) **Delegated authority** to the Chief Executive to finalise the indicative funding allocations for publication, subject to the finalised indicative allocations being materially consistent with the contents of the paper and Board discussion; and
 - (iii) **Noted** the timeline for further consideration, approval and publication of indicative (and final) allocations for AY 2024 25.

24/ 045: Date of Next Meeting

7. The date of the next Board meeting was noted as 17 May 2024. Board members were reminded that this meeting would take place virtually.