



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Access to Free Period Products 2021-22

SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 5 October 2021

Access to free period products at colleges and universities in 2021-22

Issue date: 5 October 2021

Reference: SFC/AN/28/2021

Summary: Announcement of continued additional funding in FY 2021-22 for access to free period products at colleges and universities.

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

Further information: **Contact:** Fiona Burns
Job title: Assistant Director - Access and Outcomes
Department: Access, Learning and Outcomes
Tel: 0131 313 6517
Email: fburns@sfc.ac.uk



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

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

Contents

Access to free period products at colleges and universities in 2021-22.....	4
Summary.....	4
Context.....	4
Funding for period products.....	4
Conditions of funding	5
Acceptance of grant.....	5
Further information.....	6

Access to free period products at colleges and universities in 2021-22

Summary

1. I am writing to announce continued additional funding to provide students access to free period products at colleges and universities in 2021-22. This funding has been provided and allocated 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. In November 2020, the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament². When it comes into force³, this Act will place a legal duty on schools, colleges and universities to make available a range of free period products in their buildings for pupil and student use during term-time.

Funding for period products

4. The Scottish Government has provided funding for both colleges and universities for Financial Year (FY) 2021-22, totalling £1.3 million. Funding has been awarded on the same basis as in FY 2020-21⁴.
5. The funding allocations will be revisited for 2022-23 based on data collection in FY 2021-22. The Scottish Government will be in touch directly with institutions to collect this data in due course.
6. This data will provide a baseline for funding in the next few years. It is anticipated that this funding will be mainstreamed in FY 2025-26 once further information is available about costs and uptake following the Act, and it has been ensured that the funding is baselined at a fair and appropriate level.
7. A breakdown of funding for individual colleges/regions and universities is shown in Annexes A and B respectively.
8. Subject to the acceptance of this offer of funding, funding allocations for universities and non-incorporated colleges, as set out in Annexes A and B, will

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

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2021/1/contents/enacted>

³ By January 2023 at the latest.

⁴ <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/announcements/2021/SFCAN022021.aspx>

be made in November 2021. Incorporated colleges/regions should draw down funds as required, as per their monthly cash flows, from November 2021 up to the end of March 2022.

Conditions of funding

9. 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).
10. We recognise that the COVID-19 situation will have affected institutions' ability to implement this programme, with fewer students having been on campus. Where possible or required, institutions should continue to implement local delivery models that take account of the views and needs of their students at this time, and the Guiding Principles set out in the original guidance letter.
11. Institutions should ensure that a suitable level of provision is available for any students on campus, but are not required to provide products (such as through voucher or delivery services) for students who are off campus due to any COVID-19 restrictions. Students who are at home should contact their local authority to access free period products.
12. As outlined in paragraph 5, the Scottish Government will approach institutions in due course for some further information on their use of this funding in 2021-22 as we work towards mainstreaming this provision. The data that will be collected will include:
 - Total spend on delivery of the policy (including costs associated with period products and administration).
 - Total spend on period products, broken down by disposable/reusable period products if available.
 - Total number of period products (units) purchased, broken down by disposable/reusable period products if available.
13. If your lead contact has changed, please also ensure that you confirm this with Emma Roberts, email: eroberts@sfc.ac.uk.

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 **Friday 15 October 2021**.

Further information

15. Should you require any further information, please contact Emma Roberts, Policy/Analysis Officer, tel: 0131 313 6570, email: eroberts@sfc.ac.uk.

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

James Dunphy

Director of Access, Learning and Outcomes