

THE EDUCATION (ACCESS FUNDS) DISCRETIONARY FUNDS (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 2023

DIRECTION MADE BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTION 73ZA OF THE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 TO ADMINISTER SUMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING GRANTS TO COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION

The Scottish Ministers have chosen to pay grants to colleges of further education under section 73(c) and (f) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (“the 1980 Act”) in accordance with the Education (Access Funds) (Scotland) Regulations 1990 (“the 1990 Regulations”) for the purpose of providing financial assistance to students undertaking a course of education in the academic year 2023-24.

The Scottish Ministers have chosen to direct the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council and regional strategic bodies to administer and pay those grants on their behalf in accordance with section 73ZA of the 1980 Act with effect from 8 November 2023.

Direction to administer sums

1. The Scottish Ministers direct—

(a) the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council; and

(b) the following regional strategic bodies:--

(i) Regional Board for Glasgow Colleges;

(ii) New College Lanarkshire; and

(iii) University of the Highlands and Islands,

to administer and pay sums applied by the Scottish Ministers for the purpose of providing financial assistance for students receiving education by a college of further education under section 73(c) and (f) of the 1980 Act and the 1990 Regulations to colleges of further education in accordance with the conditions set out below.

Conditions

2. Payments may only be made in connection with the provision of financial assistance for students undertaking a course in the 2023-24 academic year.

3. Payments may only be made by the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council to colleges of further education which are fundable post-16 education bodies within the meaning of section 6(2) of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”).

4. Payments may only be made by a regional strategic body to a college which is assigned to that regional strategic body by order made under section 7C of the 2005 Act.

5. The Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council and the regional strategic bodies must ensure that any college in receipt of a payment complies with the provisions of the 1990 Regulations and any determinations made by the Scottish Ministers under those Regulations.

Revocation

6. This direction supersedes the Education (Access Funds) (Scotland) (No. 3) Direction made on 27 July 2022 and the Education (Access Funds) (Scotland) (No. 4) Direction made on 27 July 2022 which are revoked.

Dr Naureen Ahmad
Deputy Director, Learner Experience Division
Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills

Date: 8th November 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naureen" followed by a stylized circular flourish.