
SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL FUNDING FOR DISABILITY PROVISION 2004-05

18 March 2005

Ref: W05/11HE

To: Heads of higher education institutions in
Wales

Summary: This Circular announces a supplementary
capital funding allocation for 2004-05 to help
institutions comply with the requirements of
disability legislation.

Response by: 13 May 2005

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INTRODUCTION

- 1 This Circular announces a supplementary capital funding allocation for 2004-05 to help institutions comply with the requirements of disability legislation.

BACKGROUND

- 2 The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and its extension, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001, have placed substantial statutory obligations on institutions of higher education. These include a requirement that institutions should not treat disabled students less favourably, without justification, than students who are not disabled. In consequence, institutions are required, among other things, to ensure that their buildings are adapted to provide access for disabled students, where it is reasonable to do so.
- 3 In March 2004, the Council announced earmarked capital funding for disability provision of £2.6 million in each of 2004-05 and 2005-06 in order to assist institutions to comply with legislative requirements (Circular W04/20HE). The plans provided by institutions in response to this allocation indicated that, whilst this funding will make a valuable contribution to enabling them to tackle their highest priorities, a substantial amount of work still remains to be done.
- 4 The Welsh Assembly Government has provided the Council with additional in-year capital funding of £7 million for 2004-05 to provide further assistance in this area.

PURPOSE OF FUNDING

- 5 The funding has been made available in support of capital developments required in order to enable institutions to comply with disability legislation. The specific purposes for which this funding may be used are the same as for the original allocations, namely:
 - Building adaptations and other estates work required in order to provide adequate access or facilities for students with disabilities
 - The purchase of special equipment, including IT equipment, required to make courses accessible to disabled students.
- 6 Whilst not in any way intended as a definitive list, examples of eligible areas of expenditure under the first of these headings would include: installation of ramps and lifts; widening doorways; and smaller scale developments such as provision of hearing loops, signage for the visually impaired and flashing fire alarms.
- 7 Modifications to halls of residence to improve access/facilities for disabled students are eligible for support from this funding. The funding may not, however, be used for further audits or surveys of requirements, nor for the employment of consultants.

ALLOCATION METHOD

- 8 Following the approach adopted for the distribution of the earlier capital funding for disability provision, the funding has been allocated in proportion to institutions' total formula funding for teaching for 2004/05, subject to the application of a minimum level of award to ensure that all institutions receive a meaningful level of funding. This minimum award has been set at £200k.
- 9 The allocations are shown at **Annex A**.

TERMS OF FUNDING

- 10 The allocations will be released before the end of March 2005. The Council will, however, wish to know how institutions propose to use their funding and, to this end will require plans for expenditure. These should be provided by completing the pro forma at **Annex B**. An electronic version of the pro forma can be downloaded from the publications section of the Council's website (<http://www.hefcw.ac.uk>), where it will be available alongside this Circular.
- 11 The plans should be sufficiently specific to provide the Council with a clear understanding of institutions' intentions. For example, in the case of estates work, they should identify the building(s) concerned and specify the nature of the work to be undertaken. It will **not be sufficient** to state that the funding will be used for estates work identified in the institution's Disability Provision Development Plan without providing further details.
- 12 The Council will also wish to know the extent to which the proposed expenditure will reduce institutions' estimates of the total estates investment required to comply with DDA legislation.
- 13 Institutions are reminded that they should seek to maximise value for money by appropriate scheduling of estates work and by applying best practice in respect of procurement. For example, in the case of estates work, there may be opportunities to make savings by grouping small items of related work, or by combining DDA work with planned programmes of maintenance or refurbishment. Attention is also drawn to the *DDA Prioritisation Strategy*, published by the Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE). In the cases of equipment purchase, there may be scope to make savings through purchasing jointly with other institutions.
- 14 Where plans include expenditure on equipment, institutions are also encouraged to consider whether there are opportunities for shared inter-institutional use of some items. Institutions may also find it helpful to refer to the Disability Rights Commission's (DRC's) research report *Taking Away the Strain: Auxiliary Aids and Services for Disabled Students in Post-16 Education in Wales*, which was published in January 2004 and is available on the DRC's website (www.drc-gb.org).

MONITORING

- 15 Expenditure should be completed by 30 September 2006. Institutions will be asked to provide confirmation of expenditure at that point.

RESPONSES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

- 16 Expenditure plans should be submitted to the Council by **Friday, 13 May 2005**, using the pro forma provided. The completed pro forma should be addressed to Emma Morris, Strategic Projects Manager, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, Linden Court, The Orchards, Ilex Close, Llanishen, Cardiff CF14 5DZ.
- 17 Any queries arising from this Circular should also be directed to Emma Morris (029 2068 2292; emma.morris@hefcw.ac.uk).

**SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL FUNDING FOR DISABILITY PROVISION
2004-05**

ALLOCATIONS

INSTITUTION	2004/05 TEACHING FUNDING	ALLOCATIONS
	£	£
University of Glamorgan	38,462,932	1,075,607
University of Wales, Aberystwyth	22,414,885	626,828
University of Wales, Bangor	20,883,063	583,990
Cardiff University	58,010,895	1,622,262
University of Wales, Lampeter	4,192,750	200,000
University of Wales Swansea	23,516,955	657,646
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	22,450,010	627,810
University of Wales, Newport	16,610,523	464,510
North East Wales Institute	13,369,870	373,885
Swansea Institute of Higher Education	13,140,190	367,462
Trinity College, Carmarthen	5,077,617	200,000
Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama	4,910,043	200,000
TOTAL	243,039,733	7,000,000

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR WALES

SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL FUNDING FOR DISABILITY PROVISION
2004-05

EXPENDITURE PLANS

INSTITUTION:	
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ALLOCATION	£
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CONTACT FOR ANY QUERIES	
Name:	
Position:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	

Supplementary Capital Funding for Disability Provision 2004-05: Expenditure Plans

SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL FUNDING FOR DISABILITY PROVISION - 2004-05

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT <i>Please describe the proposed development</i>	ESTATES WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN/ EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED <i>(Please provide itemised breakdown)</i>	EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN £
<i>Sub-Total</i>		
<i>Sub-Total</i>		

Continue on separate sheets as required

Supplementary Capital Funding for Disability Provision 2004-05: Expenditure Plans

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT <i>Please describe the proposed development</i>	ESTATES WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN/ EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED <i>(Please provide itemised breakdown)</i>	EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN £
<i>Sub-Total</i>		
<i>Sub-Total</i>		
TOTAL		

Supplementary Capital Funding for Disability Provision 2004-05: Expenditure Plans

Please indicate in the table below the extent to which proposed expenditure on estates work will reduce your institution's estimate of the total level of investment required to comply with DDA legislation.

	£
Total estimated cost prior to present allocation	
Total remaining estimated cost following completion of expenditure set out in these plans	