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Cylchlythyr

Circular

Research Capital Funding 2011-12

Date: 03 June 2011
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To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
Principals of directly-funded further education colleges in
Wales
Response by: **30 September 2011**
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This circular sets out details of research capital funding that will be provided in 2011-12 to qualifying institutions. This funding is provided in part by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills and the Welsh Government. The funding may only be used to support the development of the physical research infrastructure. Institutions are invited to note the monitoring processes proposed, grant payment dates and a requirement on all qualifying institutions to submit a synopsis of a case study in the required format by 30 September 2011.

This document is available online, in large print, Braille, on CD and on audio CD and cassette. Should you or someone you know require this in an alternative format, please contact us on (029) 2068 2225 or email info@hefcw.ac.uk.

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Introduction

1. This circular:
 - Announces the allocations and distribution dates of Research Capital Funding for 2011-12
 - Advises on how the expenditure of this capital will be monitored
 - Announces a requirement to produce a synopsis of a possible case study on the achievements realised from previous allocation of research capital from the period 2008-2011 by 30 September 2011.

Background

2. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (DBIS) has confirmed that it will provide research capital funding to the three UK HE funding councils for 2011-12. The funding will be awarded pro rata to the research council income received by their respective institutions. This amounts to £2,113,408 for Wales. DBIS requires this funding to be matched by a similar contribution and the Welsh Government has agreed to provide the required match monies producing a total fund of £4,226,816 in Wales. This circular sets out the allocation of this funding and the associated monitoring arrangements.
3. The agreement with DBIS requires institutional allocations to be made on the basis that the HEFCW element of the grant is allocated pro rata to recurrent Quality Research (QR) and other research income, whilst the DBIS element is allocated pro rata to research council income. In calculating the allocations we have used the most recent data available with the HEFCW element based on 2011/12 recurrent QR grant and 2009/10 other research income. Similarly the DBIS allocation has been calculated by reference to an average of the 2007/08-2009/10 research council income received.

Allocations

4. DBIS have indicated that they expect the allocation methodology to be consistent with their approach of focusing funding on research intensive institutions. The total size of the fund also raises questions as to how it can be best allocated and still offer a meaningful contribution to capital funding.
5. The HEFCW Corporate Strategy sets out our aspirations in relation to research namely *“to secure sustainable excellent research in higher education in Wales ... We will direct our funding accordingly”* Reflecting on this the Council has decided that allocations of research capital funding will only be made to those institutions who would be entitled to a pro rata allocation of more than £250,000 per annum calculated on the basis of the

data set out in paragraph 3 above. Annex A sets out the unmodified allocations and the final allocations that will be made to qualifying institutions.

Monitoring arrangements and use of funding

6. HEFCW will require institutions receiving research capital funding to identify within their financial forecasts which specific projects they intend to support with the allocated funding. This requirement will be more fully described in the relevant circular. Research includes “scientific research” (meaning research and development in any of the sciences (including social sciences) or technology (*section 6(1) of the Science and Technology Act 1965*)) and arts and humanities research. The funding provided can only be used as capital, and exclusively for purposes to support the development of the physical infrastructure associated with research.

Case study synopsis for previous research capital funding 2008-2011

7. Institutions who are receiving research capital allocations in 2011-12 are required to submit a brief synopsis of a potential case study that they could develop if subsequently requested to demonstrate the benefits arising from this previous research capital funding for the period 2008-2011. The synopsis should concentrate on large scale developments which have had a major impact. A template for the required synopsis is shown at Annex B. The synopsis must be submitted to HEFCW by no later than 30 September 2011. Any subsequent requirement to produce a full case study will be notified separately thereafter.

Payment arrangements

8. The allocated funding will be distributed via biannual payments on 20 July 2011 and 20 January 2012.

Further information / responses to

9. Responses to this circular or requests for further information should be directed to Chris Cowburn (tel .029 2068 2247; email chris.cowburn@hefcw.ac.uk).