

## Cylchlythyr | Circular

# Research capital funding 2012-13

**Date:** 25 May 2012  
**Reference:** W12/19HE  
**To:** Heads of higher education institutions in Wales  
Principals of directly-funded further education colleges in Wales  
**Response by:** 30 September 2012 and 31 January 2013  
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This circular sets out details of research capital funding that will be provided in 2012-13 to qualifying institutions. This funding is provided by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills and match funded by the Welsh Government. The use of the funding is restricted to capital projects and purchases that support the development of the physical research infrastructure. There is a requirement on all qualifying institutions to submit details of intended expenditure in the required format by 30 September 2012, and a further requirement to provide a report on the intended or actual use of the funding by 31 January 2013.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please telephone us on (029) 2068 2225 or email [info@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:info@hefcw.ac.uk).



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## Introduction

1. This circular:
  - i. announces the allocations and distribution dates of research capital funding for 2012-13; and
  - ii. advises on how the expenditure of this capital will be monitored.

## Background

2. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) has confirmed that it will provide research capital funding to the four UK HE funding bodies for 2012-13. The funding will be awarded pro rata to the average research council income received by their respective institutions, and amounts to £2,557,444 for Wales. BIS requires this funding to be matched by a similar contribution and the Welsh Government (WG) has agreed to provide this producing a total fund of £5,114,888. This circular sets out the allocation of this funding and the associated monitoring arrangements.
3. The Welsh Government element of the grant will be allocated pro rata to recurrent Quality Research (QR) and other research income. In calculating the allocations we have used the most recent data available with the WG element based on 2012/13 recurrent QR grant and 2010/11 other research income. Similarly the BIS allocation has been calculated by reference to an average of the 2008/09-2010/11 research council income received.

## Allocations

4. 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, HEFCW has decided that allocations of research capital funding will as in the previous year only be made to those institutions who would be entitled to a pro rata allocation of more than £250,000 per annum. Annex A sets out the unmodified allocations (Model 1) and the final allocations (Model 2) assuming a minimum allocation of £250,000.

## Monitoring arrangements

5. HEFCW will expect institutions receiving research capital funding to complete and return the pro forma at Annex B by 30 September 2012. This will identify and describe the intended use of funding and anticipated level of spend. We expect this submission to be consistent with details provided as part of the forthcoming strategic planning circular requiring institutions to submit details of intended capital projects within their financial forecasts. This requirement will be more fully described in the relevant circular.

## **Use of Funding**

6. The funding provided can only be used as capital, and exclusively for purposes to support the development of the physical infrastructure associated with research. 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.

## **Case study report for research capital funding 2008-2013**

7. To enable HEFCW to effectively demonstrate the value of research capital funding and to enable us to present an effective case to WG, we need to be able to clearly demonstrate both current and future planned uses of this funding. The reporting requirement identified will provide this information and enable us to present a robust case to support future funding applications. Institutions who are receiving research capital allocations in 2012-13 are required to submit a minimum of two brief report identifying the use and benefits arising primarily from the 2012-13 research capital allocation but possibly in conjunction with earlier research capital allocations received in the period from 2008 onwards. (See Annex C) The report should concentrate on large scale developments which have had a major impact. If appropriate indicate where future research capital allocations may be required to further sustain or build on the success of the project described. Where this is not appropriate we would expect to see evidence of where future research capital allocations are to be used assuming the current level of allocation is maintained in 2013-14. The report must be submitted to HEFCW by no later than 31 January 2013.

## **Payment arrangements**

8. The allocated funding will be distributed via two payments on the 20 July 2012 and the 21 January 2013.

## **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](mailto:chris.cowburn@hefcw.ac.uk) ).