

Housing and Social Justice Directorate  
Social Justice and Regeneration Division



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Chief Executives  
LA Directors of Finance

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Dear Colleagues,

## **ACCESS TO FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS - FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES 2019/21**

As you will be aware, from August 2018 all Local Authorities in Scotland were provided with funding to introduce access to free sanitary products in schools. The Scottish Government made a new commitment in the 2018 Programme for Government to go further than this, and *“aim to increase the number and range of places where sanitary products are available for those who need them. We will do this through working with a range of public and private sector organisations and with additional third sector partners to expand the geographical spread of support”*.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018, COSLA Leaders agreed to proposed funding to expand access to free sanitary products. Following discussion between Scottish Government and COSLA officials it is suggested that the main route of the expansion of delivery could be through Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs), in recognition of the fact that they have the links with communities, facilities and services to ensure delivery meets local needs. However it will be for individual local authorities to decide what works best in their area.

The main intent of this commitment is tackling poverty however Scottish Government have indicated that Local Authorities should consider wider need, to address the overarching gender equality and dignity issues that affect all of those who menstruate regardless of income. Therefore the funding will have two elements – a low income element and a universal element. We have adapted the Guiding Principles in discussion with COSLA to help shape local delivery models. These are set out in **Annex A**.

At the same meeting, Leaders agreed the distribution of associated funding:

- 1) For full year payments every authority should receive at least a minimum base amount of £15,000. The remainder should then be allocated between all other local authorities based on;
  - a) For the Tackling Poverty element: Each local authority's share of the number of people receiving low income benefits (DWP benefits data). Namely, the number of people on the Claimant Count or claiming Income Support or in-work Universal Credit
  - b) For the Wider Access element: The female population aged 12-54 (mid-year population estimates).
- 2) The pro-rata payment for January to March 2019 will be based on a pro-rata of this methodology.
- 3) The additional one-off set-up costs should be allocated on the basis of £3.25 per person eligible for the Tackling Poverty element.

I am writing to you to advise you of the agreed distribution of a total of £4.01 million being made available to Local Authorities in Scotland between January 2019 and March 2020 to implement Access to Free Sanitary products. A table with details of individual Local Authority allocations is attached at **Annex B**.

The distribution of funding is calculated based on all women of menstruating age (average 12-54), minus those provided for by other funding<sup>1</sup>. The available data suggest that the best proxy for the overall population on which funding is to be based is **1,181,000**.

Please note that £0.536m of the allocation for 2018/19 has been provided for initial development and set-up costs. A breakdown of funding by year is as follows:

2018/19	£1.23m
2019/20	£2.78m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4.01m</b>

Future funding in 2020/21 will follow the same distribution method and is subject to the normal Spending/Budget Review process. Please note that this approach is for the 2018-21 period only. Scottish Government and COSLA officials will agree a process to review uptake and spend to inform funding from 2021/22 onward. We request that Local Authorities ensure that the required information is gathered and shared as requested to ensure long-term funding allocations can be more accurately based on need. Scottish Government has funded a post within COSLA to support this work, please contact Hannah Axon [Hannah.axon@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.axon@cosla.gov.uk) 0131 474 9318.

The funding for 2018/19 will be paid through an adjustment to the 2018-19 Local Government Finance Order in early 2019 and funding for 2019/20 will be through the Local Government Finance order.

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<sup>1</sup> We are already providing funding for 395,000 students at school, college and university to access free sanitary products (154,000 in schools, 99,500 in colleges and 141,500 in universities). Note that not all of the university population will be living in Scotland so only half have been subtracted. In addition an estimated 18,800 low income women will access to free sanitary products through FareShare..

Should you require any help or additional information with respect to the approaches other Local Authorities are taking, please get in touch with Hannah. Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank you for the enthusiasm you have displayed in tackling this issue so far and for your ongoing positive engagement.

Regards,

Fiona Rodger

**Policy and Delivery Manager, Access to Free Sanitary Products**

**ACCESS TO SANITARY PRODUCTS - GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Protecting people's dignity, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma;
- Making a range of products available in places that people use;
- A response that is reflective of communities views and needs;
- An efficient and effective approach which demonstrates value for money;
- Individuals being able to get sufficient products to meet their needs;
- Gender equality - ensuring anyone who menstruates can access products, including transgender men/non-binary individuals, and that language is gender inclusive.
- Awareness raising and education to both promote the 'offer' and attempt to change cultural norms

## LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

2018/2019

Local Authority	Set-up and Development Funding	Sanitary Products Allocation	Total for 2018/19
Aberdeen City	£24,313	£22,624	£46,937
Aberdeenshire	£24,588	£17,541	£42,129
Angus	£10,374	£14,267	£24,642
Argyll and Bute	£7,145	£6,793	£13,938
Clackmannanshire	£4,885	£9,820	£14,704
Dumfries and Galloway	£12,890	£13,637	£26,526
Dundee City	£15,581	£28,360	£43,941
East Ayrshire	£11,734	£22,872	£34,606
East Dunbartonshire	£9,697	£9,986	£19,683
East Lothian	£10,043	£17,069	£27,112
East Renfrewshire	£8,931	£6,295	£15,226
Edinburgh, City of	£57,078	£43,155	£100,232
Eilean Siar	£2,281	£3,750	£6,032
Falkirk	£15,669	£19,423	£35,092
Fife	£35,594	£56,180	£91,774
Glasgow City	£69,078	£101,005	£170,083
Highland	£21,411	£32,873	£54,284
Inverclyde	£7,496	£18,237	£25,733
Midlothian	£8,776	£14,039	£22,815
Moray	£8,749	£8,107	£16,855
North Ayrshire	£12,750	£26,696	£39,446
North Lanarkshire	£34,333	£46,789	£81,122
Orkney Islands	£1,951	£3,750	£5,701
Perth and Kinross	£13,598	£10,650	£24,248
Renfrewshire	£17,418	£22,585	£40,002
Scottish Borders	£10,060	£9,174	£19,234
Shetland Islands	£2,090	£3,750	£5,840
South Ayrshire	£9,982	£13,868	£23,850
South Lanarkshire	£30,682	£46,965	£77,647
Stirling	£9,651	£11,737	£21,388
West Dunbartonshire	£8,851	£14,988	£23,839
West Lothian	£18,321	£18,518	£36,839

**2019/2020**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Total 2019/20</b>
Aberdeen City	<b>£90,496</b>
Aberdeenshire	<b>£70,164</b>
Angus	<b>£57,069</b>
Argyll and Bute	<b>£27,172</b>
Clackmannanshire	<b>£39,278</b>
Dumfries and Galloway	<b>£54,546</b>
Dundee City	<b>£113,440</b>
East Ayrshire	<b>£91,488</b>
East Dunbartonshire	<b>£39,943</b>
East Lothian	<b>£68,277</b>
East Renfrewshire	<b>£25,179</b>
Edinburgh, City of	<b>£172,618</b>
Eilean Siar	<b>£15,000</b>
Falkirk	<b>£77,693</b>
Fife	<b>£224,721</b>
Glasgow City	<b>£404,019</b>
Highland	<b>£131,493</b>
Inverclyde	<b>£72,947</b>
Midlothian	<b>£56,155</b>
Moray	<b>£32,426</b>
North Ayrshire	<b>£106,783</b>
North Lanarkshire	<b>£187,155</b>
Orkney Islands	<b>£15,000</b>
Perth and Kinross	<b>£42,600</b>
Renfrewshire	<b>£90,338</b>
Scottish Borders	<b>£36,696</b>
Shetland Islands	<b>£15,000</b>
South Ayrshire	<b>£55,472</b>
South Lanarkshire	<b>£187,861</b>
Stirling	<b>£46,948</b>
West Dunbartonshire	<b>£59,953</b>
West Lothian	<b>£74,070</b>