Dear colleague

School Condition Allocations for 2023-24

I am writing to confirm that your Voluntary Aided (VA) body meets the eligibility criteria for a School Condition Allocation (SCA) in the financial year 2023-24.

SCA is a formula-based allocation of capital funding for eligible responsible bodies to maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds, so that children can learn in a safe and effective environment. Investment must prioritise keeping school buildings safe and in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues.

As the responsible bodies for managing SCA across your VA schools you will best understand your schools' needs and should be able to make the most effective investment decisions for the long-term condition of your school buildings, working closely with governing bodies. The Department has published guidance on good estate management, which sets out the policies, processes and documents that schools, local authorities and multi-academy trusts and VA groups should consider when managing their estates effectively, at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/good-estate-management-for-schools. You should review **the fundamentals of good estate management** and use the **self-assessment tool** provided to assess your organisation's approach. Further tools are also available to help make sure your organisation has the right skills, processes and policies: Tools and checklists - Good estate management for schools - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Responsible bodies must ensure value for money is secured through appropriate procurement routes. For large projects, the DfE School Buildings Construction Framework is available for use and should be considered as part of project development planning.

SCA is to be invested strategically across the buildings you are responsible for. Unexpected, or emergency, capital projects do arise occasionally, and we normally expect responsible bodies in receipt of SCA to manage these through, for example, re-prioritising spending plans or using insurance arrangements or other resources where available.

SCA must only be used for capital projects, in line with the terms and conditions that will be sent to you in spring 2023. You will need to comply with any assurance processes set out within the terms and conditions.

The level of the allocation will reflect the eligible schools within your VA body at 1 April 2023, provided a return was made in the January 2022 census or 2021/22 ILR. It will not include any schools that are eligible to bid into the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) for the 2023-24 financial year. We do not change eligibility within a financial year, so any school that is eligible for CIF will not be included within your SCA calculation.

We will publish the funding methodology for 2023-24 in due course. The methodology for 2022-2023 is available at: Condition funding methodology 2022 to 2023.

All final funding allocations are subject to confirmation by ministers of the funding system for 2023-24. In order to ensure School Condition Allocations are invested effectively and efficiently, we may also ask trusts and VA bodies to supply further information on their estate management plans, processes and governance. Where there are concerns about a trust's or VA body's ability to manage a School Condition Allocation effectively, alternative funding arrangements may be put in place for 2023-24.

We aim to publish final allocations amounts for SCA and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) in spring 2023. For information, you can view the published amounts allocated to all of last year's qualifying responsible bodies at School_capital_funding_allocations_for_2022_to_2023

For VA school groups of non-diocesan schools, we expect payment arrangements to be similar to this year. Further information will be provided in due course.

Please do not reply directly to this email, as this mailbox is not monitored and we cannot guarantee a response. If you have any queries about this letter, please use our enquiry form: http://bit.ly/KCenquiryform.

Please ensure that you share the information in this letter with each of your schools, so that they understand how funding is being used.

Yours faithfully

Central Capital Unit | Strategic Finance | Operations Group

Department
for Education