

UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

POLICY COVER SHEET



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

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| Purpose of Policy: | <i>The purpose of the Financial Regulations is to provide a framework for the University to conduct its financial business, protect its assets and strive for value for money.</i> |
| Applicable to: | <i>Staff and students of the University and its subsidiary companies as well as contractors and suppliers.</i> |
| Owner: | <i>Chief Financial Officer</i> |
| Author: | <i>Iain Waite, Senior Finance Manager</i> |
| Approval Body: | <i>Review by Audit Committee and approval by Board of Governors</i> |
| Consultation Process: | <i>The policy has been developed with reference to the University's legal requirements and sector best practice</i> |
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UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Financial Guiding Principles set out below support and direct every member of the University in supporting the strategic objective of “We need to build financial resilience, sustainability and flexibility through targeted investments and developing effective and collaborative partnerships.”

- **We shall obey the law and abide by relevant regulations**
- **All financial decisions shall be consistent with the University’s aims and objectives**
- **We shall conduct our financial business with integrity, openness and honesty**
- **We will protect the University’s financial information, assets and interests**
- **We shall strive to obtain value for money and consider sustainability in all our dealings**
- **We shall keep accurate financial records**

The Financial Regulations is a key document that governs the way that the University manages its financial affairs. Apart from certain specific requirements, it is a principles-based document that refers to supporting policies and procedures that provide more detailed guidance.

It is impossible for the Financial Regulations and supporting policies and procedures to cover each and every scenario that an individual may encounter. The financial guiding principles set out above provide high-level guidance. If there is no reference to a specific circumstance, then adherence to these principles will ensure that officers and employees are acting in a proper and appropriate manner.

1 General

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The University is a higher education corporation created under the provisions of the Education Reform Act 1988, as amended by the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. Its structure of governance is laid down in the Instrument and Articles of Government. The Instrument of Government can only be amended by legislation and the Articles of Government by the Privy Council. The University is accountable through its Board of Governors, which has ultimate responsibility for overseeing its activities and securing its solvency.
- 1.1.2 The University of Lincoln is an exempt charity with the charitable objects of providing higher education and further education, and of carrying out research and publishing the results. The members of the Board of Governors, who include the Vice Chancellor and staff and student members, are the trustees of the charity.
- 1.1.3 The University is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS) as the principal regulator of English Higher Education Institutions. The University also receives grant funding from the OfS. The terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions between OfS and the University sets out the terms and conditions on which grant is made. The Board of Governors is responsible for ensuring that conditions of grant are met. As part of this process the University must adhere to the OfS Audit Code of Practice, which requires the University to have sound systems of financial and management control.
- 1.1.4 The Board of Governors is responsible for the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the University and the Corporation and for the safeguarding of assets. The Financial Regulations of the University form part of the overall system of accountability and financial management and control in support of these responsibilities.

1.2 Status of the Financial Regulations

- 1.2.1 These Financial Regulations have been approved by the Board of Governors and are mandatory. Officers and employees are required to apply and abide by these regulations to ensure that the University operates with integrity and in accordance with the terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions between OfS and the University.
- 1.2.2 The Financial Regulations are subordinate to the University's Articles of Government. They are also subordinate to any restrictions contained within the terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions between OfS and the University.
- 1.2.3 The Financial Regulations apply to the University and all subsidiary undertakings. In these Financial Regulations, where relevant, the term 'University' includes the University and all subsidiary companies under the control of the University.
- 1.2.4 The Chief Financial Officer will review the regulations annually and propose any amendments to the Board of Governors, via Audit Committee.

- 1.2.5 Unless stated otherwise, all amounts quoted in these Financial Regulations are inclusive of VAT, where VAT is applicable.
- 1.2.6 In the event that the Chief Financial Officer post is vacant or the postholder is absent from the University, the Chief Operating Officer shall be authorised to undertake all duties assigned to the Chief Financial Officer within these Financial Regulations.
- 1.2.7 In the event that the Chief Financial Officer post is vacant and the University appoints an interim Head of Finance, who is not a member of the Senior Leadership Team, then certain tasks may be delegated to the Head of Finance as detailed in the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities in Appendix A.

1.3 Responsibility for Compliance

- 1.3.1 Compliance with the Financial Regulations is compulsory for all officers and employees of the University.
- 1.3.2 Officers and employees include all University staff members on a permanent or fixed term employment contract.
- 1.3.3 It is the responsibility of all officers and employees to read and understand the Financial Regulations and underpinning policies and procedures.
- 1.3.4 Any officer or employee who fails to comply with the Financial Regulations may be subject to disciplinary action under the University Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.
- 1.3.5 The Financial Regulations also apply to all temporary employees and contractors working at, or on behalf of, the University who carry out activities that fall within the scope of the Financial Regulations. It is the responsibility of all Head of Colleges and Heads of Professional Services to ensure that any temporary employee or contractor operating under their responsibility reads and adheres to the Financial Regulations where relevant and applicable to the services they are providing.
- 1.3.6 In exceptional circumstances, the Chief Financial Officer may authorise a temporary departure from the detailed provisions within the Financial Regulations to a limit of £25,000. The form in Appendix B should be completed when requesting a temporary waiver of the regulations. Any authorised departures shall be reported to the Chair of Audit Committee.
- 1.3.7 Any departure from the Financial Regulations involving an amount greater than £25,000 requires prior approval of the Chair of the Board of Governors (or, if absent, the Deputy Chair) and shall be reported to Audit Committee.

1.4 Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities

- 1.4.1 The purpose of the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities is to provide clarity as to who is authorised to conduct financial transactions on behalf of the University. The scheme is to ensure efficient day-to-day working whilst minimising the risk of fraud, error and inappropriate commercial transactions.
- 1.4.2 The Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities is set out in detail in Appendix A.
- 1.4.3 Within the Scheme of Delegated Authorities, and as applicable throughout these Financial Regulations, the term 'Budget Holders' includes all officers and employees with direct budget responsibility, along with those who have been delegated authority to control budgets.
- 1.4.4 The following principles underpin all decisions taken within the Scheme:
- The person to whom the authority has been delegated should only make decisions within their own area of responsibility. That is, one Budget Holder should not take a decision that commits another Budget Holder without their consent.
 - Where sub-delegation takes place this may only be delegated down one tier (as set out in Appendix A). This must be granted in writing and may take place on a permanent or temporary basis.
 - Financial decisions should only be taken when the relevant University Policies and Procedures have been followed.
 - Where a third party has provided funding, decisions should only be taken when the relevant funding body's regulations have been followed.
 - All approval documentation must always be retained.
- 1.4.5 The following financial decisions can never be delegated and always vest with the Board of Governors:
- To approve the University budget and five-year plans
 - To approve the annual Financial Statements
 - To appoint the University bankers
 - To appoint the internal and external auditors
 - To approve the Treasury Management Policy

2 Corporate Governance

2.1 Responsibilities

- 2.1.1 The Board of Governors has designated the Vice Chancellor to be the accountable officer responsible for the implementation of the University's strategic objectives.
- 2.1.2 The Chief Financial Officer is responsible to the Board of Governors, through the Vice Chancellor, for the financial management of the University.

2.2 Risk Management

- 2.2.1 The University acknowledges the risks inherent in its business and is committed to managing those risks that pose a significant threat to the achievement of its business objectives and financial health.
- 2.2.2 The adoption and oversight of the University's Risk Management Policy is the responsibility of Board of Governors. The Vice-Chancellor and the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the implementation of the policy, which is managed by the Director of Planning & Corporate Strategy. In addition, the Audit Committee provides oversight of risk management, providing a formalised reporting and appraisal mechanism.

2.3 Audit

- 2.3.1 All accounting and supporting records are subject to annual audit by the External Auditors. The External Auditors have a right of access at all reasonable times to the books and accounts and vouchers of the university and are entitled to require from the officers of the University such information and explanations as may be necessary for the performance of their duties.
- 2.3.2 The University appoints Internal Auditors in accordance with the Audit Code of Practice between OfS and the University. This function provides an independent appraisal for the University across all systems and procedures.
- 2.3.3 The Internal Auditors will have a right of access at all times to all University records, information and assets which they consider necessary to fulfil their responsibilities. They are entitled to require from any officer or employee of the University such information and explanations as may be necessary for the performance of their duties.
- 2.3.4 The Internal and External Auditors shall be appointed by the Board of Governors on recommendation of the Audit Committee.

2.4 *Fraud, Bribery and Prevention of Tax Evasion*

- 2.4.1 Heads of College/Professional Service are responsible for ensuring that appropriate procedures are put in place to ensure that all members of their areas comply with all Financial Regulations and any other financial instructions.
- 2.4.2 The Chief Financial Officer will support these regulations by the issue of more detailed guidance and instructions to Heads of Professional Service and Schools from time to time.
- 2.4.3 In order to act in an appropriate manner, employees are expected to observe the Financial Guiding Principles.
- 2.4.4 All officers and employees shall ensure that any financial transaction to which they are party, in the course of their duties, shall be wholly exclusively and necessarily in the interests of the University and shall be properly authorised and recorded in the records and accounts of the University. Where any actual or potential conflict of interest arises this should be declared to the Head of College/Professional Service. If considered necessary, further guidance and advice should be obtained from the Chief Financial Officer.
- 2.4.5 Heads of College/Professional Service shall promptly inform the Chief Financial Officer of any irregularities affecting income, expenditure, cash, intellectual and other property of the University.
- 2.4.6 It is an offence under the Bribery Act 2010 for members of staff to offer, promise, give, request, agree to receive or accept financial or other advantage with the intention of inducing or rewarding the improper performance of a function or activity or knowing or believing that the giving or acceptance of the advantage would itself constitute the improper performance. Details of gifts and hospitality that members of staff may and may not accept are included within the University's Gifts and Hospitality Policy.
- 2.4.7 It is an offence under the Criminal Finances Act 2017 for persons associated with the University to facilitate tax evasion, both in the UK and in a foreign country. Accordingly, all officers and employees shall ensure that no activities are undertaken that may enable tax evasion to take place by a third party.
- 2.4.8 A register is kept by the Finance Department containing a declaration by senior officers and employees, with the authority to commit to significant amounts of expenditure, of all commercial interests of themselves and close relatives in any organisation which is a supplier or a potential provider of goods and services in any form to the University. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for updating this register on an annual basis.

2.5 *Financial Misconduct and 'Whistle Blowing'*

- 2.5.1 If an individual suspects any matter which is thought to involve financial misconduct in the exercise of the activities of the University, the individual should notify the Chief Financial Officer or another appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team.

- 2.5.2 If an individual is not satisfied that their complaint has resulted in the appropriate action they should consider following the procedures set out within the University's Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle Blowing) Policy which is available on the University Portal.
- 2.5.3 The University views fraud and bribery very seriously and will take appropriate action to ensure that the public interest is safeguarded.

3 Financial Management

3.1 Accounting Records, Procedures and Principles

- 3.1.1 All accounting records and procedures of the University are subject to the approval and control of the Chief Financial Officer.
- 3.1.2 All officers and employees shall make available any relevant accounting records or information to the Chief Financial Officer as requested.
- 3.1.3 Changes to accounting records, documents or procedures may only be made following consultation with the Chief Financial Officer or their deputies, acting with delegated authority.
- 3.1.4 The Chief Financial Officer shall be responsible for keeping all financial procedures under review and will implement changes to procedures or systems as may be necessary for efficient and effective financial control.
- 3.1.5 All receipt books, forms, tickets and sales invoices shall be ordered, controlled and issued by the Finance Department under the direction of the Chief Financial Officer.
- 3.1.6 The Chief Financial Officer shall be responsible for the preparation of a report to the Board of Governors on the Annual Accounts of the University following the end of the Financial Year on 31 July, together with reports on actual and forecast financial performance throughout the year.
- 3.1.7 The Chief Financial Officer shall be responsible for the preparation of cash flow forecasts as required as part of the on-going monitoring of bank balances and current/future debt exposure and to present to Board of Governors to support the affordability of Income and Expenditure Budgets and capital investment proposals.
- 3.1.8 All financial information to be included on a Board of Governors and Senior Leadership Team agendas shall be subject to assessment by the Chief Financial Officer or an appropriate delegate, prior to being considered by committee.
- 3.1.9 The minimum period for the retention of financial records and related documents shall be specified by the University Records Retention Schedule.

3.2 Treasury Management

- 3.2.1 The Board of Governors is responsible for approving the University's Treasury Management Policy, which sets out a strategy and policies for cash management, long-term investments and borrowings. The Treasury Management policy must comply with the requirements of CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

3.3 Banking Arrangements

- 3.3.1 In this section the term 'bank' includes all types of funds transfer facilities including, but not limited to, current accounts, deposit accounts, credit cards, prepaid debit cards and PayPal accounts.
- 3.3.2 All arrangements with the University's bankers concerning the operation of bank accounts for the receipt and disbursement of University funds will be made by the Chief Financial Officer and approved by Board of Governors.
- 3.3.3 Payments will be made out of the University's bank accounts by authorised electronic transfer and by cheques bearing the manuscript signatures of those individuals specified in the Bank Mandate.
- 3.3.4 The Bank Mandate with the University's clearing banker shall be reviewed at least annually and any amendments should be in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and approved by the Chief Financial Officer.
- 3.3.5 All bank accounts relating to the University shall include in their title "University of Lincoln".
- 3.3.6 The Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Operating Officer are jointly authorised to open bank accounts as and when required for the receipt and disbursement of University Funds. No other officer or employee may open any form of banking facility on behalf of the University.
- 3.3.7 Where the Chief Operating Officer is also taking the role of Chief Financial Officer in accordance with these Regulations, then the Head of Finance will be jointly authorised to open bank accounts with the Chief Operating Officer.

3.4 Contracts

- 3.4.1 In this section the term 'contract' specifically refers to any contract that enters the University into a legal financial commitment (excluding contracts of employment). Preferred supplier agreements which bind the University and suppliers into agreed commercial/legal terms but without any obligation to purchase are not in scope of this section and can be executed separately by the Procurement Team. Any contract that involves the creation of, or investment in, any form of subsidiary, joint venture, associate or spin-out company is considered in section 4.
- 3.4.2 Contracts may only be made by persons acting under the express or implied authority of the Board of Governors within the parameters defined in the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities (as set out in Appendix A).
- 3.4.3 Contracts may only be made where the appropriate legal and professional advice has been taken. Any contract entered into by any officer or employee without appropriate legal and professional advice shall be considered a breach of these Financial Regulations.
- 3.4.4 Contracts valued over £50,000 excluding VAT require advice from the Procurement Team to confirm compliance with the University Procurement Policy, public procurement law and the most appropriate method of execution of that contract.

- 3.4.5 Certain documents that are executed by the seal being affixed must be signed by the Vice Chancellor (or in their absence a Deputy Vice Chancellor) and a lay Governor. The Clerk to the Board of Governors is responsible for submitting a report to each meeting of the Board of Governors detailing the use of the University's seal since the last meeting.
- 3.4.6 The Chief Financial Officer should be consulted before any form of indemnity, security or compensation arrangement, for whatever purpose, is given. However, in respect of indemnities given by the University in the normal course of agreeing commercial contracts with suppliers, this responsibility is delegated to the Procurement Team.

4 Income, Commercial Activity and Debtors

4.1 Invoicing and Collection of 'Non-Cash' Income

- 4.1.1 All student fee income must be collected in accordance with the University Regulations.
- 4.1.2 All research, educational contract and consultancy activity should be undertaken in accordance with procedures approved by the Director of Research and Enterprise.
- 4.1.3 Levels of charges for contract research, services rendered, goods supplied and rents and lettings are determined by procedures approved by the Senior Leadership Team.
- 4.1.4 The setting of credit limits for commercial customers shall be determined by procedures set out by the Chief Financial Officer. No commercial activity should be undertaken for a new customer until appropriate credit checks have been carried out by the Finance Department. It is the responsibility of the relevant officer or employee to inform the Finance Department of new commercial customers and request the appropriate credit checks.
- 4.1.5 The collection of all income due to the University is under the control of the Chief Financial Officer. All monies should be promptly paid over to the Finance Department unless the Chief Financial Officer has specifically approved alternative paying-in arrangements.
- 4.1.6 All sales invoices or requests for payment shall be controlled and raised by Finance except where specific approval to make alternative arrangements has been granted by the Chief Financial Officer.
- 4.1.7 All sales invoices or requests for payment shall specify that cheques should be made payable to "University of Lincoln" and not to any other commercial body or individual.
- 4.1.8 Refunds shall only be made in accordance with the Refund Policy and the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities set out in Appendix A.
- 4.1.9 Debts can only be written off in accordance with the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities set out in Appendix A.

4.2 Cash Income

- 4.2.1 The University does not accept cash as a means of payment nor hold any cash balances for any reason unless specifically permitted by the Chief Financial Officer for a particular purpose.

4.3 *Fundraising and Gifts Received*

- 4.3.1 The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for maintaining financial records in respect of gifts, benefactions and donations made to the University and initiating claims for recovery of tax where appropriate.
- 4.3.2 The Development Office is responsible for ensuring that all gifts, benefactions and donations are operated within any relevant legislation and any individual specific requirement.

4.4 *Private Work and Other Appointments*

- 4.4.1 Unless otherwise stated in an employee's contract, outside consultancies or other paid work may not be accepted without the written consent of the Head of College or Head of Professional Service (and in the case of the Head of College or Director of Professional Service, the Vice Chancellor).
- 4.4.2 Applications for permission to undertake work as a purely private activity must be submitted to the Head of College/ Professional Service or Vice Chancellor, as appropriate.

4.5 Subsidiaries, Joint Ventures and Associated Companies

- 4.5.1 Investments in and disposals of subsidiaries, joint ventures and associated companies (including spin-outs companies) shall be approved by the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors may formally delegate this responsibility to the Senior Leadership Team but must ensure compliance with the CUC Code of HE Governance. Where this responsibility is delegated, the Senior Leadership Team shall provide regular updates to the Board of Governors on such activities and their progress.
- 4.5.2 All University appointees to the boards of such subsidiaries, joint ventures and associated companies shall be approved by the Board of Governors.
- 4.5.3 For each company which the University is a majority shareholder, the board of directors shall submit an annual report to the Board of Governors.
- 4.5.4 Contracts in respect of the above may only be made by persons acting under the authority of the Board of Governors within the parameters defined in the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities (as set out in Appendix A).
- 4.5.5 Separate accounting arrangements shall be established by the Chief Financial Officer for each subsidiary, joint venture or associated company, such that all transactions with the University are transparent and authorised in accordance with the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities.
- 4.5.6 Funds from public sources shall not be used to subsidise the operation of subsidiary or associated companies.
- 4.5.7 Any new aspect of business, other than teaching and research activities, requiring an investment up to £100,000 in buildings, resources or staff time should be presented for approval to the Senior Leadership Team. Any investments over £100,000 must be approved by the Board of Governors.

5 Expenditure and Creditors

5.1 *Ordering and Payment of Goods and Services*

- 5.1.1 Purchase orders shall only be placed after following the rules of the University Procurement Policy in regard to competition and any special circumstances where this is not possible or in the best interests of the University.
- 5.1.2 No officer or employee of the University shall requisition work to be undertaken or goods to be supplied which are outside of their authority as defined by the Schedule of Financial Delegated Authorities.
- 5.1.3 No officer or employee of the University shall requisition work to be undertaken or goods to be supplied which cannot be funded from within the relevant allocated budget.
- 5.1.4 Officers and employees shall not make use of official orders or University funds to obtain goods and services for private purposes.
- 5.1.5 Payment of suppliers is controlled by the Chief Financial Officer and in accordance with Finance Department policies and procedures.

5.2 *Non-Pay Revenue Expenditure*

- 5.2.1 Heads of Professional Service/College are responsible for containing expenditure within the allocated budget. In exercising this responsibility they have discretion to delegate to other members of staff within the budget unit. Delegated authority should not exceed the levels specified in the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities.
- 5.2.2 Unspent revenue budgets may not be carried forward from one accounting period to the next unless specifically approved by the Chief Financial Officer.
- 5.2.3 The entering into leasing agreements and any other continuing liability (exceeding one year) should follow the rules set out under Section 3.4 (Contracts) and the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities within these Financial Regulations.
- 5.2.4 Any rental or leasing contracts for land or buildings that exceed three years in length should be approved by the Board of Governors.

5.3 Capital Expenditure

- 5.3.1 The University shall not commit to buying, developing or constructing any land or buildings without the approval of Board of Governors.
- 5.3.2 Capital expenditure proposals shall be approved by the Board of Governors in accordance with the University Five Year Plan and shall be evaluated using investment appraisal techniques.
- 5.3.3 Capital contracts shall be subject to competitive tendering procedures as required by the University Procurement Policy and comply with public procurement law and any provisions required by capital grant donors.
- 5.3.4 The Director of Estates is responsible for the management and monitoring of all fixed asset developments together with the on-going maintenance of fixed assets. All alterations and extensions to University buildings shall be controlled by Estates Department
- 5.3.5 Virements between individual capital projects and between capital and revenue budgets shall be approved as set out in the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authorities.
- 5.3.6 Post-completion appraisals shall be provided by the Director of Estates to the Board of Governors as soon as practicable after completion for all projects of more than £2m.

5.4 Appointment and Payments to Employees

- 5.4.1 Employees, including members of the Senior Leadership Team who are appointed by the Board of Governors, may only be appointed in accordance with the procedures established by the Director of Human Resources.
- 5.4.2 The payment of salaries and wages and other emoluments shall be made by the Director of Human Resources or under arrangements approved and controlled by them.
- 5.4.3 All payments to employees shall be processed by the Human Resources Department.
- 5.4.4 The Director of Human Resources is responsible for all payroll deduction payments and for informing the appropriate authorities of such payments.
- 5.4.5 All expense claims shall be submitted in accordance with the appropriate University Expenses Policy. Where an officer or employee has been issued with a University Expense card this must be operated in full accordance with the Expense Card Policy.
- 5.4.6 Severance payments shall only be made in accordance with relevant legislation and under a scheme or a proposal approved by the Senior Leadership Team under the oversight of the Remuneration Committee. All such payments shall be approved in accordance with the Scheme of Delegated Financial Authority.

- 5.4.7 The Board of Governors is responsible for undertaking the role of employer in relation to appropriate pension arrangements for employee. The Director of Human Resources is responsible for day-to-day superannuation matters including the payment of contributions to various authorised superannuation schemes, administering eligibility and preparing the annual return to various superannuation schemes.
- 5.4.8 The Director of Human Resources is responsible for the Statement of Policy on the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- 5.4.9 All matters regarding pension scheme accounting and pension scheme valuation are the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer.

6 Assets

6.1 Physical Assets

- 6.1.1 In this section the term 'physical assets' includes all capitalised fixed assets, inventories and stock.
- 6.1.2 Heads of College/Professional Service are responsible for ensuring the proper security of all physical assets under their control.
- 6.1.3 No University physical assets shall be subject to personal use without proper authority having been obtained from the Head of College/Professional Service.
- 6.1.4 All equipment bought by the University, irrespective of funding source, remains the property of the University until sold or destroyed, unless contracts with external funders specify otherwise.
- 6.1.5 It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer to maintain a register of all capitalised fixed assets owned by the University.
- 6.1.6 The Director of Estates shall arrange for the safe custody of all title deeds.
- 6.1.7 Fixed asset and inventory item disposals, whether sold or destroyed, must be treated in accordance with the University's Procedure for the Custody and Recording of Fixed Assets.
- 6.1.8 Disposal of land and buildings must only take place with the prior authorisation of the Board of Governors. Reinvestment of such disposal proceeds into new capital projects must only take place with the prior permission of the Board of Governors.
- 6.1.9 Lessees and/or other occupiers of University land and/or buildings shall not be allowed to take possession until the lease or agreement, in a form approved by the Director of Estates, has been signed.
- 6.1.10 All property documentation with a financial impact shall be approved in accordance with the Schedule of Delegated Financial Authorities. All other property documentation shall be approved in accordance with procedures authorised by the Director of Estates.
- 6.1.11 All vehicles purchased by the University shall be notified to the Director of Estates who shall retain all registration and MOT documents.
- 6.1.12 The licensing of all vehicles shall be undertaken by the Director of Estates.

6.2 *Intellectual Assets*

- 6.2.1 Officers and employees are responsible for ensuring that the Intellectual Property Rights of the University are protected and may only be disposed of or exploited in accordance with the University's Intellectual Property Rights Policy.
- 6.2.2 When members of staff make an invention which, in their opinion, it is desirable to protect by a patent, they shall inform their Head of School who shall inform the Director of Research & Enterprise.

6.3 *Insurance*

- 6.3.1 The portfolio of insurances will be reviewed and approved by the Chief Financial Officer on an annual basis.
- 6.3.2 The Chief Financial Officer shall be responsible for effecting insurance cover.
- 6.3.3 The Chief Financial Officer shall prepare an annual report for the Board of Governors setting out insurable risks and levels of cover.
- 6.3.4 Heads of College/Professional Service shall be responsible for notifying the Chief Financial Officer of any changes to insurable risk.
- 6.3.5 Heads of College/Professional Service shall notify the Chief Financial Officer immediately of any loss, liability of damage, which may lead to a claim against or on behalf of the University.

SCHEME OF DELEGATED FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES

APPENDIX A

(all limits quoted are inclusive of VAT unless stated otherwise)

| Area | Action | Specific Delegated Action | Delegated to | Financial Limits (where applicable) |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Executing University Contracts with suppliers to the University (all amounts quoted in this section are excluding VAT) | For the purchase (including lease/rental) of goods, services or works in relation to the ordinary activities within a College or Professional Service area | To execute a contract with a University supplier | Staff with formal delegated authority within the College/Professional Service | Up to £50,000 over the life of the contract |
| | | | Director of Service (or equivalent Head of Professional Service role) or SLT Lead, with advice/input taken from the Procurement Team | Between £50,000 and £200,000 over the life of the contract |
| | | | Both SLT Lead and DVC/COO, with advice/input taken from the Procurement Team ³ | Between £200,000 and £1 million over the life of the contract |
| | | | Both DVC/COO and Vice Chancellor, with advice/input taken from the Procurement Team | Above £1 million over the life of the contract |
| | For the formation and operation of subsidiary companies, associates, joint ventures, spin-outs and any other strategic partnership | To execute a contract | Vice Chancellor | N/A |
| | To enter in to any form of financial instrument including borrowings and interest rate agreements. | To execute a contract | Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer (unless Governor signature specifically requested by other party) | N/A |
| Purchasing | To approve the purchase of goods, services or works. | To authorise a purchase order on the Finance System | Staff with formal delegated authority within the College/Professional Service ¹ | Up to £50,000 |
| | | | Director of Service (or equivalent Head of Professional Service role) or SLT Lead | Between £50,000 and £200,000 |
| | | | SLT Lead or DVC/COO ⁴ | Between £200,000 and £1 million |
| | | | Vice Chancellor | Above £1 million |
| | To approve a 'one-off' payment not related to the purchase of goods/services (e.g., payment to a partner on a research project, employee season ticket loan payment). | To approve a 'one-off' payment request | Staff with formal delegated authority within the College/Professional Service ¹ | Up to £50,000 |
| | | | Director of Service (or equivalent Head of Professional Service role) or SLT Lead | Between £50,000 and £200,000 |
| | | | SLT Lead and DVC/COO ⁴ | Between £200,000 and £1 million |
| | | | DVC/COO ⁴ and Vice Chancellor | Above £1 million |

SCHEME OF DELEGATED FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES

APPENDIX A

(all limits quoted are inclusive of VAT unless stated otherwise)

| Area | Action | Specific Delegated Action | Delegated to | Financial Limits (where applicable) |
|----------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Land and Property | All land and property contract documentation with a financial impact | To approve | Property Manager and Director of Estates | Value up to £100,000 (over the life of the contract) |
| | | | As above plus the Chief Operating Officer or appropriate DVC | Value between £100,000 and £200,000 (over the life of the contract) |
| | | | As above plus the Vice Chancellor and Board of Governors | Value over £200,000 (over the life of the contract) |
| Banking and Payments | Purchase Ledger Payment Run | Authorise remittance proposal to produce BACS payment file | Finance Manager Grade 9 or above | N/A |
| | Online Banking Payments | To authorise online banking payments | All members of the Senior Leadership Team | Up to £10 million for payments to third parties and, Up to £20 million for transfers between University bank accounts (including money market funds in the University's name) |
| | | | Head of Finance ⁶ | Up to £1 million for payments to third parties and, Up to £10 million for transfers between University bank accounts (including money market funds in the University's name) |
| | | | Finance Managers Grade 9 or above | Up to £250,000 for payments to third parties and, Up to £10 million for transfers between University bank accounts (including money market funds in the University's name) |
| | | | Finance Managers Grade 8 or above | Up to £50,000 |
| | New bank accounts and set-up and amendments to bank mandates ⁵ | To approve the opening a new bank account | Both the Chief Financial Officer ⁶ and Chief Operating Officer | N/A |
| | | To approve and sign the set-up and amendments to bank mandates | Both the Chief Financial Officer ⁶ and Chief Operating Officer | N/A |
| Bank mandates | To act as a Panel A signatory on the University bank mandate | Any members of the Senior Leadership Team | N/A | |

SCHEME OF DELEGATED FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES

APPENDIX A

(all limits quoted are inclusive of VAT unless stated otherwise)

| Area | Action | Specific Delegated Action | Delegated to | Financial Limits (where applicable) |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | To act as a Panel B signatory on the University bank mandate | Finance Manager Grade 9 or above | N/A |
| | Cheque payments (two signatures required) | To sign cheque payments | At least one Panel A signatory | Unlimited |
| | | | Two panel B signatories | Up to £50,000 |
| Sales Ledger and Online Store | Refunds | To approve refunds for payment | Finance Manager Grade 7 or above | Up to £5,000 |
| | | | Finance Manager Grade 8 or above | Up to £10,000 |
| | | | Finance Manager Grade 9 or above | Up to £25,000 |
| | | | Head of Finance ⁶ | Up to £50,000 |
| | | | Chief Financial Officer | Up to £100,000 |
| | | | Chief Operating Officer | Over £100,000 |
| | Sales Credit Notes | To approve credit note requests | Finance Manager Grade 7 or above | Up to £5,000 |
| | | | Finance Manager Grade 8 or above | Up to £10,000 |
| | | | Finance Manager Grade 9 or above | Up to £25,000 |
| | | | Head of Finance ⁶ | Up to £50,000 |
| | | | Chief Financial Officer | Up to £100,000 |
| | | | Chief Operating Officer | Over £100,000 |
| | Pass debt to legal advisors | To approve legal action against debtor | Finance Manager Grade 9 or above | Up to £25,000 |
| | | | Chief Financial Officer ⁶ | Over £25,000 |
| | Write off bad debt | To approve debt write off | Finance Manager Grade 9 or above | Up to £10,000 |
| | | | Head of Finance ⁶ | Up to £25,000 |
| | | | Chief Financial Officer | Up to £100,000 |
| | | | Chief Operating Officer | Up to £500,000 |
| Vice Chancellor | | | Over £500,000 | |
| Staff Costs | Approval of payroll | To approve payrolls prior to payment | Chief Financial Officer ⁶ | N/A |
| | Severance Payments | To approve severance schemes or departmental reorganisations involving severance payments | Senior Leadership Team | N/A |

SCHEME OF DELEGATED FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES

APPENDIX A

(all limits quoted are inclusive of VAT unless stated otherwise)

| Area | Action | Specific Delegated Action | Delegated to | Financial Limits (where applicable) |
|------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | | To approve individual severance payments where: a) employee's salary is less than £100,000 per annum, and b) employee is not a member of the Senior Leadership Team | Director of Human Resources | Payments up to £50,000 (before payroll deduction but including pension strain costs) |
| | | | Both the Director of Human Resources and Chief Operating Officer | Payments over £50,000 but less than £100,000 (before payroll deduction but including pension strain costs) |
| | | | Board of Governors Remuneration Committee | Payments £100,000 and over (before payroll deduction but including pension strain costs) |
| | | To approve individual severance payments where: a) employee's salary is more than £100,000 per annum, or b) employee is a member of the Senior Leadership Team | Board of Governors Remuneration Committee | Any value |
| Budget Virement | Within approved capital projects | To approve the virement of funds between capital projects | Both the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Financial Officer | Up to £500,000 per capital project |
| | | | Board of Governors | Over £500,000 per capital project |
| | Virements between revenue and capital budgets on Estates projects | To approve the virement of funds from revenue to capital or vice versa | Both the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Financial Officer | Up to £500,000 per capital project |
| | | | Board of Governors | Over £500,000 per capital project |
| | Virements between revenue and capital budgets on ICT projects | To approve the virement of funds from revenue to capital or vice versa | Both the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Financial Officer | Up to £500,000 per financial year |
| | | | Senior Leadership Team | Over £500,000 |

¹ SLT Leads are responsible for creating an appropriate scheme of delegation within their areas based on operational need, local structures and risk. This must be discussed and agreed with the Finance Department and approved by the Chief Financial Officer.

² The approval of the purchase requisition by the Procurement Team confirms that the appropriate procurement processes have been followed in respect of the purchase. It does not approve the business need for the purchase.

³ Where the DVC/COO is also the SLT lead, then the contract shall also be executed by the Chief Financial Officer

⁴ Where DVC/COO is stated, this should be the most appropriate DVC or the COO for the contract or transaction

SCHEME OF DELEGATED FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES

APPENDIX A

(all limits quoted are inclusive of VAT unless stated otherwise)

⁵ The term 'bank account' shall include all types of investment account, such as money market funds and stockbroker accounts, and the term 'bank mandates' shall include all instructions relating to the operation of such accounts.

⁶ Where the Chief Financial Officer post is vacant, then the interim Head of Finance assumes the above delegated level of approval to maintain operational efficiency



Waiver of Financial Regulations Form

To: Chief Financial Officer

From:

Financial Regulations

I request your authority to waive section(s) of the University Financial Regulations for the following reason(s)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

(please attach further information and documentation, if required)

.....SignedDate

.....NamePosition

Documentation reviewed and agreed:

..... Chief Financial Officer

.....Date

Waiver of Financial Regulations agreed:

..... Chief Operating Officer

.....Date



SCHEDULE OF SUPPORTING POLICIES

The table below sets out the Finance owned policy documents that are referred to and support the Financial Regulations. All policies will be updated as set out in the table, or when there is a separate requirement to do so (for example, changes in legislation).

| FINANCE OWNED POLICIES | METHOD OF APPROVAL | MINIMUM REVIEW PERIOD |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Treasury Management Policy | Board of Governors | Annually |
| Fraud Policy and Fraud Response Plan | Audit Committee | Every 2 years |
| Anti- Bribery and Accepting Gifts and Hospitality Policy | Audit Committee | Every 2 years |
| Procurement Policy | Senior Leadership Team | Annually |
| Anti-Money Laundering Policy | Senior Leadership Team | Every 2 years |
| Purchase Card Policy | Chief Financial Officer | Every 2 years |
| Refund Policy | Chief Financial Officer | Every 2 years |

The table below sets out the other non-Finance owned policy documents that are referred to in the Financial Regulations. These documents will be reviewed by Finance on a yearly basis to ensure they are still relevant and appropriate to the Financial Regulations.

| NON-FINANCE OWNED POLICIES | OWNER |
|---|---|
| Disciplinary Policy and Procedure | Director of Human Resources |
| Risk Management Policy | Director of Planning and Corporate Strategy |
| Public Interests Disclosure (Whistle Blowing) Policy | University Registrar |
| Expenses Policies (UK, Overseas, Executive, Expense Card) | Director of Human Resources |
| Statement of Policy on the Local Government Pension Scheme (the 'Statement of Discretions') | Director of Human Resources |
| Intellectual Property Rights Policy | Director of Research and Enterprise |

All of the above policies are available on the University portal.