

**Universities
Scotland**



Universities Scotland's reaction to the Scottish Government's Budget Bill 2009

Universities Scotland welcomes the Scottish Government's Budget Bill and the "protection" given to funding for the higher education sector in Scotland in financial year 2010/11.

John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, presented the Scottish Government's draft budget to the Scottish Parliament on 17 September. The revised budget for financial year 2010/11 largely maintains the level of funding for Scotland's university sector at the level announced in late 2007 as part of the spending review.

This gives Scottish higher education institutions approximately a 4.1% cash increase in recurrent funding (before adjustments) compared to the previous year. This settlement for higher education comes against a background of a 0.9% real-term reduction in the Scottish Government budget.

After one or two adjustments, including £5 million for the Cell Signalling Institute which is to be funded for the HE budget from 2010/11, Scottish higher education sector can still expect to receive a real terms increase in recurrent funding of approximately two per cent (based on an assumed rate of inflation at 1.5 per cent).

Universities Scotland welcomed the budget announcement, making this statement:

"In this budget the Scottish Government has put universities right at the heart of its strategies for economic recovery and we very much welcome that. Universities will work hard to make the maximum impact with this funding".

Whilst the budget appears to show a decrease in capital funding for universities between 2009/10 and 2010/11 this is a consequence of an earlier decision to advance capital funding. £12million has already been brought forward from 2010/11 to be spent by institutions in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

The Scottish Government's Draft Budget can be found by following this link:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/17093831/0>

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