

PAPER X **ANNUAL STIPEND AND INDICATIVE FEES UPLIFT 2018/19 UPDATE**

Introduction

1. At the 4 December meeting, UKRI Design and Delivery sub-board members discussed the next Annual Stipend and Indicative Fees uplift and approved the rates offline.
2. After receiving the approval, it has been discovered that the proposed uplift amounts, using the GDP default rates, although calculated in line with previous years, had not been calculated in the same way as the practical examples given on the Gov website. Although the overall numbers do not deviate much, it was felt that the uplift should be recalculated to ensure we are compliant with the rules around the GDP.
3. The paper, detailed *below*, shows the revision to the rates and how the calculations have been made.

The Board is asked to:

- **Approve** the new rates for the annual stipend and indicative fees uplift

Annual Stipend and Indicative Fees Uplift for 2018/19

4. The current rates for 2017/18 are:
 - Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level: £4,195
 - National Minimum Doctoral Stipend: £14,553.

The original amounts that were proposed were as follows:

Figure 1: Proposed Rates for 2018/19 and forecast rates for the next 3 years

Academic year	GDP	Stipend (£)	Fee (£)
2017/18		14,553	4,195
2018/19	1.56%	14,780	4,260
2019/20	1.66%	15,025	4,331
2020/21	1.88%	15,307	4,412
2021/22	1.92%	15,601	4,497

5. GDP figures are taken from the following source:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/624528/GDP_Deflators_Qtrly_National_Accounts_June_2017_update.xlsx
6. Please note that where London Weighting is applied, a further £2K a year is added to the stipend figures used in calculating training grants

7. By using the practical examples that are given on the Gov website, the new figures would be:

Financial year	2016-17 = 100	per cent change on previous year	Stipend	Fee
2013-14	95.965	1.65		
2014-15	97.375	1.47		
2015-16	98.042	0.69		
2016-17	100.000	2.00		
2017-18 ^{(1), (2)}	101.629	1.63	14,553	4,195
2018-19 ^{(1), (2)}	103.193	1.56	14,777	4,260
2019-20 ^{(1), (2)}	104.852	1.66	15,015	4,328
2020-21 ^{(1), (2)}	106.735	1.88	15,284	4,406
2021-22 ^{(1), (2)}	108.653	1.92	15,559	4,485

8. [REDACTED] from PSU Finance has also reviewed these new figures and has agreed to this approach being taken. For information purposes, the calculation used was:

$$\frac{103.193}{101.629} \times 14,553 = 14,776.96$$

9. As you can see, although the difference is minimal, given the number of students that RCUK support, it could have more significant financial implications.

The Board is asked to:

- **Approve** the revised annual stipend and indicative fees uplift amounts

Author name: [REDACTED]

Author's position: [REDACTED] for the Research Careers Network

Date of sign-off: 3rd January 2018

MANDATORY

Approval:

Has BEIS been consulted regarding this paper? No

Does BEIS need to approve content within this paper? No

Please provide details on who has been consulted, what has been agreed, and next steps

This paper has been amended and once reviewed by the UKRI Design and Delivery Sub-Board, it will be circulated to the Research and Innovation Strategy Advisory Board; Finance Directors Network and the Operations Oversight Board for information.