

Glasgow Kelvin College

Board of Management Meeting of 10 December 2025

**Scottish Funding Council Outcomes Framework and Assurance Model Guidance
for Institutions**

Report by Principal, Vice Principal Curriculum and Vice Principal Operations

1. Introduction

On the 30th October 2025, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) published the updated guidance for the national Outcomes Framework and Assurance Model (OFAM), attached as **Appendix 1**. This new guidance significantly strengthens the accountability framework for the college and university sectors, particularly regarding good governance and financial viability and sustainability.

2. Outcomes Framework and Assurance Model Guidance for Institutions

OFAM is the mechanism through which the SFC gathers assurance on each institution's contributions, impact, and delivery against its Outcomes Framework. This model, which replaced Outcome Agreements, sets out how the SFC will monitor and engage with colleges and universities. As Glasgow Kelvin College is now a Regional College (rather than an assigned college to GCRB), this outcome and assurance framework is the mechanism by which SFC monitor College performance.

The SFC guidance acknowledges that institutions are operating in a challenging financial environment. Significantly, the SFC notes that reflecting the increasing risk to institutions' financial health and following the publication of the Gillies Report into the root causes of issues at the University of Dundee, the SFC guidance emphasises that they are enhancing their institutional scrutiny. This has resulted in a strengthening of the SFC OFAM guidance, particularly regarding good governance and financial viability and sustainability.

The updated guidance provides a range of information on the mechanisms by which the SFC will identify and address high-risk issues. This includes the specification of potential risk flags and interventions.

When internal SFC analysis or engagement identifies a high-risk issue requiring intervention, the SFC has outlined several actions it may take across outcome areas, including:

- bespoke regular reporting by institutions against an action plan;
- undertaking or commissioning an independent review;
- review of Board/Committee papers to understand how issues are being overseen and addressed; and
- observing meetings of the institution's Board or relevant Committees.

These interventions emphasise that the SFC's enhanced scrutiny will directly involve the documentation and activities of the Board of Management. The SFC has significantly strengthened its monitoring in this area, linking it explicitly to lessons learned from recent

sector analysis and the Gillies Report. For example, the SFC state that going forwards they will undertake closer monitoring in relation to governance and engage in a more detailed way with Governance Effectiveness Reports (GERs). The SFC expects GERs to consider and provide judgements about the adequacy and effectiveness of governance arrangements, focusing on assurance, not just development. The revised OFAM guidance therefore highlights a shift towards to increased scrutiny of governing body effectiveness by the SFC.

At an operational level, the new Outcome and Assurance arrangements have initiated quarterly meetings with executive offers between the College and SFC. To date the College has participated in three meetings to discuss aspects such as recruitment, student outcomes, governance and estates development.

3. Resource Implications

There are no immediate resource implications arising directly from this report.

4. Impact on Students

The national Outcomes Framework and Assurance Model is intended to support a high-quality experience for students. The OFAM arrangements also highlight and prioritise the importance of ensuring the student voice is a central element of college planning and delivery.

5. Equalities

There are no direct equality implications arising directly from this report.

6. Risk and Assurance

The Board of Management should ensure that that the College's governance arrangements conform with the SFC OFAM guidance. Given the SFC's new focus on requiring assurance over the adequacy and effectiveness of governance arrangements, and the clear linkage made between good governance and financial viability, the Board should take cognisance of the additional level of assurance required from SFC and the potential increased level of scrutiny going forward.

7. Data Protection

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report.

8. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- i) note the contents of the attached SFC guidance and the strengthened accountability framework for the college and university sectors, particularly regarding good governance and financial viability and sustainability.
- ii) note the additional level of assurance required from SFC and the potential increased level of scrutiny going forward.

9. Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from Joanna Campbell, Principal (JoannaCampbell@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk), Robin Ashton, Vice

Principal Curriculum (rashton@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk), or Jeanette Evans, Vice Principal Operations (jeavans@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk).

Glasgow Kelvin College
JC, RA, JE 26/11/2025