

STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE (SSIN)

Arrangements for students funded under the
Education (Student Support) Regulations

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES (DSAs)

To: Student Finance administrators and practitioners in institutions of higher education, further education or specialist colleges providing HE, and alternative providers;

DSA assessors, assessment centres and suppliers;

The Disabled Students' Allowance Quality Assurance Group;

Student Finance advisors, and

The Student Loans Company

SSIN 06/19
August 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Changes to Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) – expectations on providers

You will be aware that Student Loans Company has announced that it will shortly be running a tendering exercise for the supply of DSAs needs assessments for Student Finance England-funded students. This is in addition to the tender for the supply of assistive technology and training, which is soon to be launched. Further to this, the Disabled Students' Allowance Quality Assurance Group (DSA QAG) has announced that they will be reviewing their operating position as a result of these announcements.

We are therefore entering a period of transition in the provision of DSAs, and this short SSIN outlines the expectations that the Department has of providers during this period.

All providers should be clear that these changes do not affect the Quality Assurance Frameworks (QAFs) already in existence, and we expect all providers to adhere to the requirements of the frameworks appropriate to their business until further notice. Similarly, DSA QAG will be continuing their programme of audits, and we expect all providers to comply with these arrangements.

Providers should also note that any variations to their businesses that arise as a result of these changes should be reflected in their Conflict of Interest (Col) declarations where this is appropriate.

To be clear, we expect providers to continue to meet the requirements of the QAFs, audit, and Col declarations that already exist: failure to do so may result in the imposition of sanctions, and ultimately to withdrawal from registration.

We hope that this clarification is helpful.

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