



Delegation to the Principal

By virtue of the Principal's authority and responsibilities as the Chief Executive of the University the Court recognises the need to empower the Principal to discharge their duty to ensure the orderly conduct of the business of the University in a timely and efficient manner. Accordingly, apart from the items reserved to Court, the Court has delegated full authority to the Principal to act on its behalf in all matters affecting the well-being of the University, subject to the following principles:

- The Principal will act within the terms of the prescribed conditions of his or her appointment.
- The Principal's actions will be:
 - consistent with the University-level Strategic Plan and the institutional objectives and priorities as expressed in this approved Plan
 - consistent with the University's approved budget
 - in conformity with relevant legislation and externally prescribed conditions, including the Principal's responsibilities as the designated accounting officer under the Scottish Funding Council's Financial Memorandum and other funding documents including the approved outcome agreement.
- The Principal's actions will be consistent with the Nine Principles of Public Life in Scotland.
- The Principal will at all times act in accordance with the best interests of the University, its staff and students, and will be mindful of the importance of preserving the University's reputation.
- The Principal will report to the Court all significant decisions thus taken, and will be accountable to the Court for such decisions.
- In cases of doubt, for example in regard to novel or potentially contentious matters, the Principal will consult with the Senior Lay Member of the Court, whom failing an external member of the Court nominated for the purpose by the Senior Lay Member.
- In the absence of the Principal, the Principal may delegate their authority to an appropriate senior officer, acting on behalf of the Principal.

The Court further authorises on the sole authority of the Principal the ability to commit expenditure on behalf of the University in respect of sums up to £1 million.¹ Larger sums of expenditure will normally require to be authorised by the Court but in cases of urgency the Principal may proceed following the approval of the Exception

¹ *Secretary's Note: the £1 million approval limit has subsequently been increased to £2 million within the [Delegated Authority Schedule](#) approved by Court on 5 December 2016.*

Committee with the additional signature of one of the following: University Secretary, the Director of Finance, the Director of Corporate Services, or other senior officer designated by the Court. The Court will review this figure from time to time in the light of experience and at each Court effectiveness review. A similar arrangement will apply to the disposal of assets where these are not subject to a Committee decision (usually the Policy and Resources Committee). In turn the Principal will define the expenditure limits that may be incurred on their own authority by senior officers, including the Heads of Colleges and Support Groups, at levels consistent with the foregoing restriction.

Approved by Court, 12 May 2014

Clerical amendments, 1 August 2020: references to the Vice-Convenor of Court replaced with references to the Senior Lay Member of Court; reference to the “seven principles of public life identified in the report on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Report)” replaced with reference to the “Nine Principles of Public Life in Scotland”