



Department for Education

Higher Education, STEM and Tertiary Directorate,
Higher and Further Education Group,
Sanctuary Buildings,
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LONDON
SW1P 3BT.

www.gov.uk/df

Nicola Dandridge
Office for Students
Via email to: nicola.dandridge@officeforstudents.org.uk

26th February 2020

Dear Nicola,

I am writing to inform you that we are making funds totalling £117,000 available to the Office for Students to disburse to the University of Bolton. These funds will compensate the university for the emergency hardship funding it paid out to students affected by the fire that took place in student accommodation on 15th November 2019, in line with the commitments made by the Secretaries of State for Education, and Housing, Communities and Local Government. The total fund constitutes £500 for each of the 234 students affected, reflecting the funding that the University of Bolton distributed in the wake of the fire to support immediate need.

In this specific case, the government considered that it would be in the best interests of the students affected to support the University of Bolton in providing emergency funding. However, it remains the duty of every provider to support their students in times of hardship, including in emergency situations.

While the government has decided to intervene in this case, it considers that such a move is exceptional. Accordingly, whether any future intervention of this sort might be appropriate will be assessed on a case-by-case basis after consideration of the specific circumstances presented by an emergency. No assumption should be made that the government will necessarily provide funding whenever hardship, or emergencies, arise. The government expects providers to have appropriate measures in place to best support students in such situations.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Coates
Director of Higher Education, STEM and Tertiary Providers Directorate