13 January 2022

School Condition Allocation and Statlog

Addressee: All heads and Chairs of Governors of Local Authority Voluntary Aided Schools
Address: by email

Dear colleague,

I refer to my letter setting out the planned changes to the Diocesan Contribution Scheme 6th June 2021 and how it is to be used.

I refer also to the correspondence we have had with you when we became solely responsible for the administration of the locally controlled voluntary aided funding programme (LCVAP) funding. I also refer you to the announcements we have made about the more careful governance of this programme and the creation of a reference group to which Lisa D'Agostini and Nathan Walters provide much needed headteacher input. You will be aware that this programme is called the Voluntary Aided School Condition Allocation programme (VASCA). For the avoidance of doubt, we refer to this interchangeably as the SCA programme.

Please may I now draw your attention to a formal letter to the Education Commission from the DfE which states:

> "SCA is a formula-based allocation of capital funding for eligible responsible bodies to maintain and improve the condition of school buildings, so that children can learn in a safe and effective environment. Investment should be prioritised on keeping school buildings safe and in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues.
>
> As the responsible bodies for managing SCA across your VA schools you will best understand your schools' needs and should be able to make the most effective investment decisions for the long-term condition of your school buildings. The Department has published guidance on good estate management [GEM[1]], which sets out the policies, processes and documents that schools, local authorities and multi-academy trusts and VA groups should consider when managing their estates effectively, at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/good-estate-management-for-schools . [...]
>
> Responsible bodies must ensure value for money is secured through appropriate procurement routes. For large projects, the DfE School Buildings Construction Framework is available for use and should be considered as part of project development planning.
>
> SCA is to be invested strategically across the buildings you are responsible for. Unexpected, or emergency, capital projects do arise occasionally, and we normally expect responsible bodies in receipt of SCA to manage these through, for example, re-prioritising spending plans or using insurance arrangements or other resources where available.
>
> SCA must only be used for capital projects, in line with the terms and conditions that will be sent to you in spring 2022. You will need to comply with any assurance processes set out within the terms and conditions."

In order to help us make 'the most effective decisions' we have decided to invest in the Statlog system, in partnership with many other Dioceses around the country. This system enables us to develop a secure understanding of the 'estate', to check that all statutory compliance measures are in place and eventually to prioritise the most serious building work.

Statlog also helps to manage the procurement process and letting of contracts to builders etc. Our consultants have to be registered with the system – for which they are charged a fee by the software providers – and all bids are run through the system.

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[1] My insertion to create a relevant acronym.

For this to work effectively all schools will need to subscribe to the programme on the following sliding scale:

Statlog® Monthly Subscription Rates – January 2022

Service	Cost		
Statutory Compliance Package	Cost	Based on School roll	(incl. VAT)
• Sites			
• Site manager's statutory testing[1]		Up to 90 pupils	£ 54.00
• Specialist contractor statutory testing		91 to 275 pupils	£ 86.40
• Contractor database		276 to 500 pupils	£ 97.20
• Major items survey tool		501 to 749 pupils	£ 104.40
• CPAS Funding Manager		750 to 1,199 pupils	£ 111.60
		1200 pupils and over	£ 118.80
Or **Complete Package**	Cost	Based on School roll	(incl. VAT)
• **Full statutory Compliance Package (as above)**			
• CDM assist		Up to 90 pupils	£ 90.00
• Project Manager Lite (lay client use)		91 to 275 pupils	£ 144.00
• PPM		276 to 500 pupils	£ 162.00
• Asset Manager		501 to 749 pupils	£ 174.00
• Contracts Manager (under development - launching in July 2022)		750 to 1,199 pupils	£ 186.00
• Internal Helpdesk		1200 pupils and over	£ 198.00

The three following statements are offered by Statlog® for your information and benefit. The Education Commission recommend that you consult with the Diocesan Schools' Buildings Team at the Education Commission to discuss your needs before engaging with Statlog®.

Training and implementation	Statlog® modules are designed to be straightforward to use and come with full guidance built-in. In addition, they can implement the software at your school or provide training for you or any groups of schools. Full day training courses start from £225 (plus VAT) per person; please contact helpdesk@statlog.co.uk to discuss what you need or to sign up to one of their regular courses. Initial set up costs may apply for some modules.
Suggestions, improvements & customisation	Statlog® is fully customisable and their team of software engineers are constantly working to improve and refine the software. If you have a suggestion for feasible improvements that would benefit all, they would normally develop and implement this free of charge. If you need something customising just for you, then they can definitely do this and can quote for costs for this before they start - contact helpdesk@statlog.co.uk
Fair charging policy	Statlog® costs are kept as low as possible for all users and include full telephone software support and software continuous improvement. Charges are based on a rolling contract with an initial one year term and then six month notice to cancel. Cost will automatically increase by the RPI each year moving forward after the initial term; they will let you know a minimum of six months in advance of any other price increases (or decreases!).

n.b.[1]   Site managers Statlog® statutory testing module is subject to an additional one-off set up charge, with professional set up by the Statlog® team. This set up charge is included in the VASCA funded implementation costs explained below.

James Roach and Lyle Jeeves will be able to give you and your governors more detailed information about what this means in practice and what services you will receive for these monthly payments. Indeed, they have run a focus group of heads to canvas opinion on this and have also run some online seminars which can be repeated if there is sufficient demand.

Please note: as our academisation programme evolves, the same GEM principles will be applied and operated across all Diocesan property in which education is conducted on behalf of the Archbishop. We will work with MATs over the next year to put this into operation.

To kick start the process, we are commissioning Statlog to run a baseline survey of all subscribing schools. We will fund this activity, except the 10% contribution that all VA schools have to make to any building or related work. Your contribution will be set out on an invoice once the work is underway showing the10% your governors will need to make to this process. This will be reflected in the scale shown above depending on the number of pupils on roll at the last census. Please bear in mind that while this is a charge, the Diocese is rightly funding 90% of this activity as a commitment to engaging in GEM. This will equate to an investment of close to £0.5 million.

Statlog® Implementation Survey and Statutory Testing Setup Costs

Based on School roll	Major items Condition survey	Statutory testing on site setup (typical range)*				Indicative implementation cost per school		
		Low		High		Diocesan VASCA funding		School Governors' Contribution
	Incl. VAT	Incl. VAT		Incl. VAT		Incl. VAT		Incl. VAT
Up to 90 pupils	£ 1,932.00	£ 480.00	£	660.00	=	£ 2,332.80	£	259.20
91 to 275 pupils	£ 2,592.00	£ 720.00	£	960.00	=	£ 3,196.80	£	355.20
276 to 500 pupils	£ 3,096.00	£ 960.00	£	1,140.00	=	£ 3,812.40	£	423.60
501 to 749 pupils	£ 3,594.00	£ 1,320.00	£	1,560.00	=	£ 4,638.60	£	515.40
750 to 1,199 pupils	£ 4,920.00	£ 1,800.00	£	2,040.00	=	£ 6,264.00	£	696.00
1200 pupils and over	£ 5,418.00	£ 2,400.00	£	3,000.00	=	£ 7,576.20	£	841.80

The service providers will be in touch with you soon to arrange a convenient time for your school's survey. Please note they will need access to all areas and will thus be suitably covered by the Disclosure and Barring Service regulations. Once the survey is complete, the information will be processed in the Statlog system. You will be provided with log in details once you have signed up. There will be comprehensive training on the use of this system for all or any of its users in your school.

Please note that we will only be able to award SCA funding to schools that use the system, in order to exercise our duty as a responsible body.

Yours sincerely

Dr Simon Hughes
Director of Education and Diocesan Schools Commissioner