

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LAGGAN STUDENT GRANT

What is the Laggan Student Grant?

The Laggan student grant is a Learning and Development Grant to assist residents of Laggan with the costs of study at Further, Higher Education levels, distance learning and vocational courses with a recognised qualification. Individuals can apply for a maximum of £500 per year of study. The grant is renewable for each year of study.

Why is the grant limited to £500?

As part of the guidance governing the Stronelairg community fund, individuals or groups without a constitution are not normally eligible to receive funding. As the present community council particularly wished to support the funding of training, however, it reached an agreement with the community fund to allow such grants to individuals up to a value of £500. The proposal for the student grants was discussed by the Laggan Stronelairg panel who are all members of Laggan community. Laggan Community Council was asked to administer the grant. As mentioned above, the grant is not means tested and may supplement other grants or sources of funding. For full information on what the Stronelairg community fund may and may not support, please visit

<https://www.sserenewables.com/media/kgibzzxa/sse-renewables-stronelairg-guidelines-up-to-25k.pdf>

It should be noted that in addition to this grant, other funds are available to assist with the costs of study and training including an apprenticeship grant and a STEM scholarship grant. Information on all the grants available may be found on Laggan website at <https://www.laggan.com/sse-microgrants.asp>

What was the process for establishing the grants?

The proposal for the grants, both the amount and the eligibility criteria, was discussed at a few council meetings, the minutes of which were shared with the community. No objections or differing proposals were raised either at meetings or following the sharing of the minutes.

Can the amount be changed in the future?

As the grants have been agreed on an exceptional basis, the agreement is governed by a Memorandum of understanding (MoU). The grants fall under the Microgrant scheme. The amount of money allocated to the microgrant scheme is around 5% of the annual grant and pays for items such as the After Dark club for young people, Christmas lights, software licence costs for Laggan Matters etc.

The community council is in the process of establishing a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Following numerous requests to residents to become either members or trustees, the council has just about enough members (a minimum of 20 are needed) to proceed with this. It is intended to recruit a Development Officer once the SCIO is established. At that point, work will begin to develop a plan for the use of the Stronelairg Community Fund. This body could choose to review the existing grant commitments at that time. Any changes to the scheme would follow a public consultation on how the funds may

be used and the project plans would require approval from SSE before the funds are released.

Who can be part of the decision-making process?

All residents are invited to be members or trustees of the future SCIO group who will work to proactively use the Stronelairg community fund for the benefit of Laggan residents. The principle of using the community funds for the wider community benefit rather than for individual benefit will remain a key factor for the allocation of any future grants or projects.

Any resident of Laggan may attend any Community Council meeting and raise any questions or bring proposals. There is currently one opening for a co-opted councillor. If you are interested in being part of a group working for the benefit of the community, please contact secretarylcc@laggan.org

Are councillors or SCIO trustees paid?

No. Laggan community councillors and SCIO trustees are volunteers.