

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**17 JUNE 2021**  
**APPENDIX I**

**OPEN QUESTIONS**

**Question from Councillor S. Hamilton**

To Executive Member for Children and Young People

To ask the Executive Member how much has Scottish Borders Council paid to SQA for exam and assessment services in 2019/20 and 2020/21?

Reply from Councillor C. Hamilton

SQA fees for Scottish Borders

2020-21	£540,772	No exam diet – demonstrated attainment -assessed by teachers
2019-20	£547,938	No exam diet – inferred attainment- submitted by teachers
2018-19	£556,600	Exam diet - externally marked
2017-18	£547,767	Exam diet – externally marked

Supplementary

Councillor S. Hamilton noted that the Council had paid the SQA over £1m over the past 2 years and asked if the Council was requesting a refund. Councillor C. Hamilton advised that this was currently being discussed by CoSLA.

**Question from Councillor Robson**

To Executive Member for Adult Wellbeing

Can the Executive Member advise, given Section 75 4 (b) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, whether retrospective assessments can and will be undertaken to determine qualification for grant aid for housing aids and adaptations especially in the light of lockdowns during the pandemic.

Reply from Councillor Weatherston

A Local Authority may approve an application for a grant or loan only if, in its opinion, all of the conditions in subsection (4) (so far as applicable) are satisfied. Those conditions are framed by two stages of works: 1) Works to be done or 2) Works in process of being carried out. Grants applications cannot therefore be made for works which are completed.

We cannot engage in a course of “retrospective assessments” for works that have been completed. Where works have commenced any assessment would be based on the situation that the assessor is able to observe at that time.

However, if we receive a grant application in respect of works which have commenced, but which have not yet completed, then that application can be considered if there were good reasons for the works having already commenced.

Whether or not the lockdown is a part of a good reason will depend on the particular circumstances of the application.

Before any grant is approved an assessment of need for the individual will be required to be carried out and a grant will only be approved if that assessment can evidence that the works being undertaken are necessary to meet the individuals assessed needs.