

ESFA CIF Guidance Digest

'Applicants with poor financial viability and governance will find it harder to be successful unless they can demonstrate the highest priority and most urgent need'

New qualifying CIF criteria cited where the ESFA have linked the winning and losing of points awarded via their identified causal link between 'strong governance and good financial management'.

1. Excessive Executive Pay (EEP)- 4x point deduction (1x point in London)

- Either 1x executive salary of £150k or 2 x executive salaries of £100k
- Evidence of financial under-performance

2. School Resource Management Advisor Visits (SRMA)- 4x point deduction

- Applicants in receipt of SRMA over past 2 years who have not provided ESFA with a response will have 4x point deducted.
- Applicants under Financial Notice to Improve (FNI) or in deficit must evidence SRMA implementations.
- Future CIF awards tied to SRMA audit.

3. Financial Viability and Governance Concerns (FVAGC) 1x-4x point deductions

Definition of 'financial viability concerns'- latest financial statement reporting a cumulative deficit for 2018-19

- Trusts to submit 2018-19 accounts by 31st December 2019
- ESFA to audit financial returns to identify finance and governance concerns
- Where there are known financial viability concerns, trusts must submit an improvement plan or have one imposed
- Where no effective improvement plan has been provided by 1st March 2020, 4x points will be deducted from each project across the trust.

4. Funding Agreements (FA) 1x point added if using post-December 2014, FA model.

All CIF applicants to provide date of their current Funding Agreement (FA) Trusts with more than 1 FA need to transfer all accounts to latest version by March 2020

The ESFA have made transparent for the first time, the sliding scale of available points to be accrued by trusts through their financial contributions

Points	Project cost under £100,000	Project cost between £100,000 to £1m	Project cost over £1m	Threshold value
0	Under 2.5%	Under 2%	Under 1%	
1	2.5% to 5%	2% to 5%	1% to 3%	£15,000
2	5% to 10%	5% to 7.5%	3% to 5%	£50,000
3	10% to 15%	7.5% to 10%	5% to 7.5%	£75,000
4	15% to 25%	10% to 15%	7.5% to 10%	£120,000
5	Over 25%	Over 15%	Over 10%	£150,000

See my table below for predictions I made before the Education Estates Exhibition

Element	Output Need		Project Planning		Value For Money		Threshold
	Weight 60% 1 Mark = 3%	Score	Weight 60% 1 Mark = 3%	Score	Weight 60% 1 Mark = 3%	Score	
Scenario 1	15	45	13	58	10	16,6	74,6%
Scenario 2	15	45	13	58	11	18,26	76,26%
Scenario 3	16	48	12	60	10	16,6	76,6%
Scenario 4	16	48	12	60	11	18,26	78,26%
Scenario 5	17	51	12	63	9	14,94	77,94%

- Without a financial contribution, it is increasingly difficult to secure sufficient marks to reach the threshold.

View the video from my talk at the recent Education Estates Conference and contact me to discuss your CIF application or the implications of the guidance www.timwarneford.co.uk