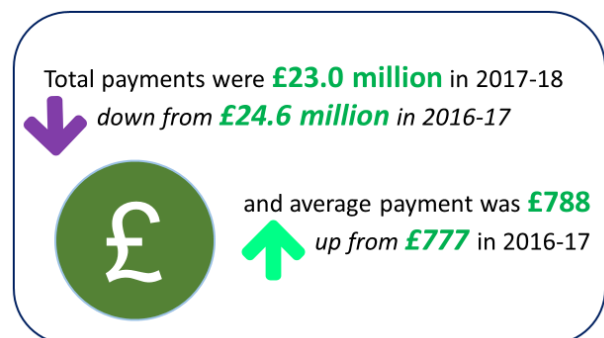
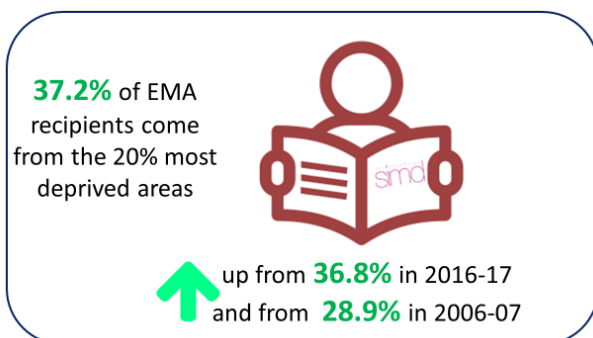
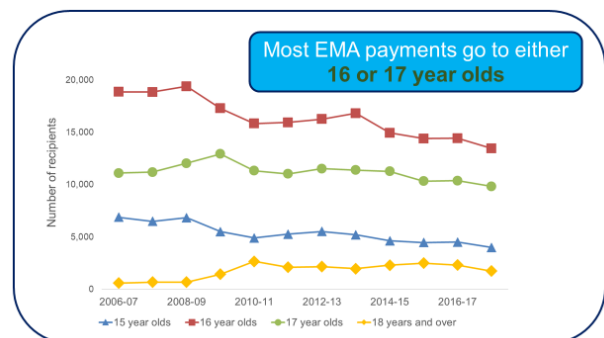
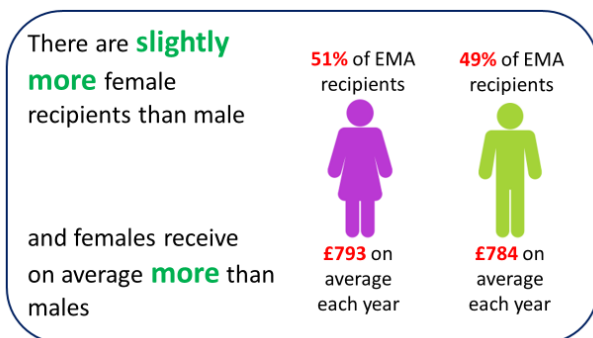
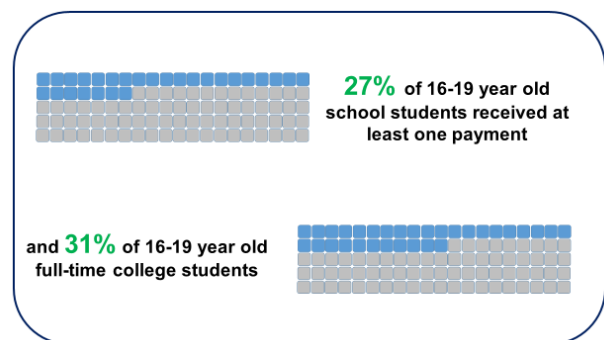
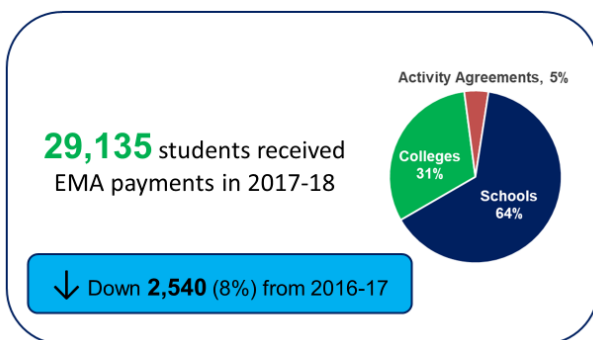


CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Education Maintenance Allowances 2017-18

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) provides financial support for young people aged 16 to 19 years from low-income households to overcome financial barriers to participate in school or college courses, or in an activity agreement. It is also available to those who are home educated.

The programme aims to increase participation and retention in post-compulsory education.



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1. Background information

The EMA programme aims to provide support for young people aged 16 to 19 from low income families to overcome financial barriers to stay on in post-16 education; either in school or on a college course, or to take up an activity agreement.

The programme is an entitlement and demand led programme which is administered by local authorities and colleges on behalf of Scottish Ministers. A weekly payment of £30 is made to a young person and is subject to attendance and agreement of a learning plan.

A history of the use of EMAs is given in Appendix A. Additional information can be found at www.mygov.scot/ema. This release is accompanied by online tables that cover more detailed analysis.

2. EMA recipients

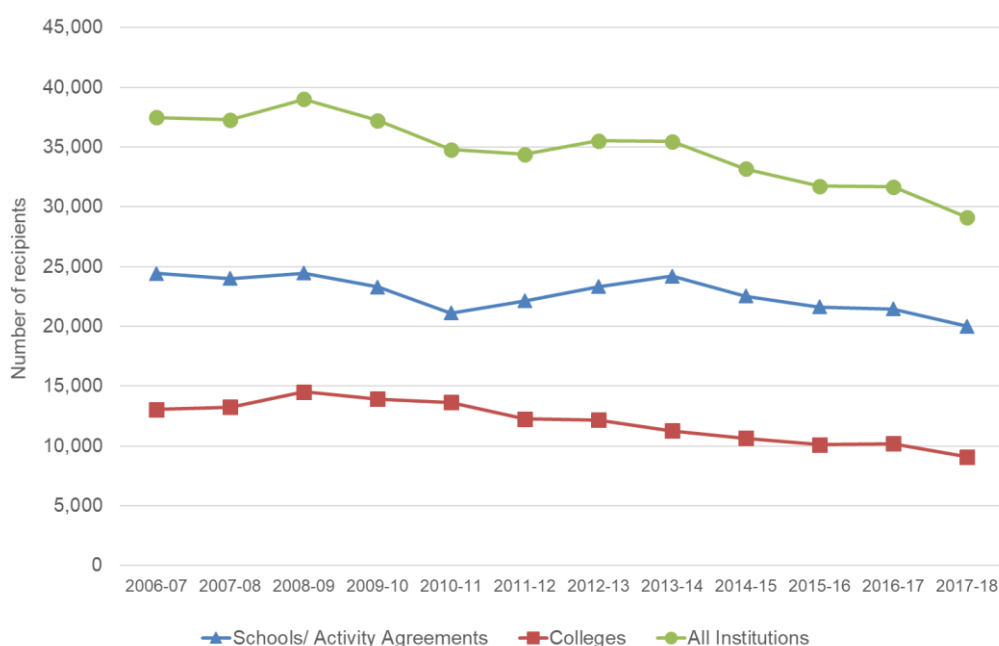
Types of EMA

For a young person to receive EMA support they must first meet all the eligibility criteria. This includes meeting residency criteria; having a household income under the EMA income threshold; be of an eligible age, and be taking part in an eligible course of learning.

Total numbers

In 2017-18 there were 29,135 young people who received EMA payments, a decrease of 8.0% from 2016-17. Figure 1 shows how the number of recipients, by institution type, has changed over time.

Figure 1: EMA recipients by type, 2006-07 to 2017-18



Note: it is not possible to differentiate between the number of recipients from schools or activity agreements prior to 2016-17.

In 2017-18, 64.2% of EMA recipients were school pupils, 31.3% were college students and the remaining 4.5% were young people on activity agreements.

Of all school pupils in Scotland aged 16 to 19, 27% received at least one EMA payment in 2017-18.¹

Of the potentially eligible full time college students aged 16 to 19, 31% received at least one EMA payment in 2017-18².

Gender

Historically more females than males have claimed EMA. In 2017-18, 50.6% of overall EMA recipients were female and 49.4% were male. For schools only, 51.6% of recipients were female. However, for the first time, the majority of EMA recipients amongst college students were male in 2017-18 (50.3%), an increase from 49.1% in 2016-17.

Age

In 2017-18, 46.4% of EMA recipients were 16 years old and 33.9% were 17 years old³. Only 6.0% of recipients were aged 18 years and over.

Young people cannot receive EMA until they reach 16 years of age. However, as the analysis is based on age as at 30th September of the academic year, some recipients are recorded as being 15 years old.

There has been a notable drop in 18 year old recipients at college. This is likely to decrease further in later years as colleges are expected to provide bursaries for 18 year olds.

Deprivation

Deprivation is measured using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

There was an increase in the proportion of EMA recipients from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland from 2016-17; up from 36.8% to 37.2%⁴.

Due to the overall decrease in EMA recipients however, the actual number of recipients from these areas has gone down by 805 to 10,810.

¹ See [Methodology note – School pupil population](#) in Appendix B

² See [Methodology note – College pupil population](#) in Appendix B

³ See [Methodology note – Age](#) in Appendix B

⁴ See [Methodology note – Deprived areas of Scotland](#) in Appendix B

Figure 2: EMA recipients from 20% most deprived areas by type, 2006-07 to 2017-18

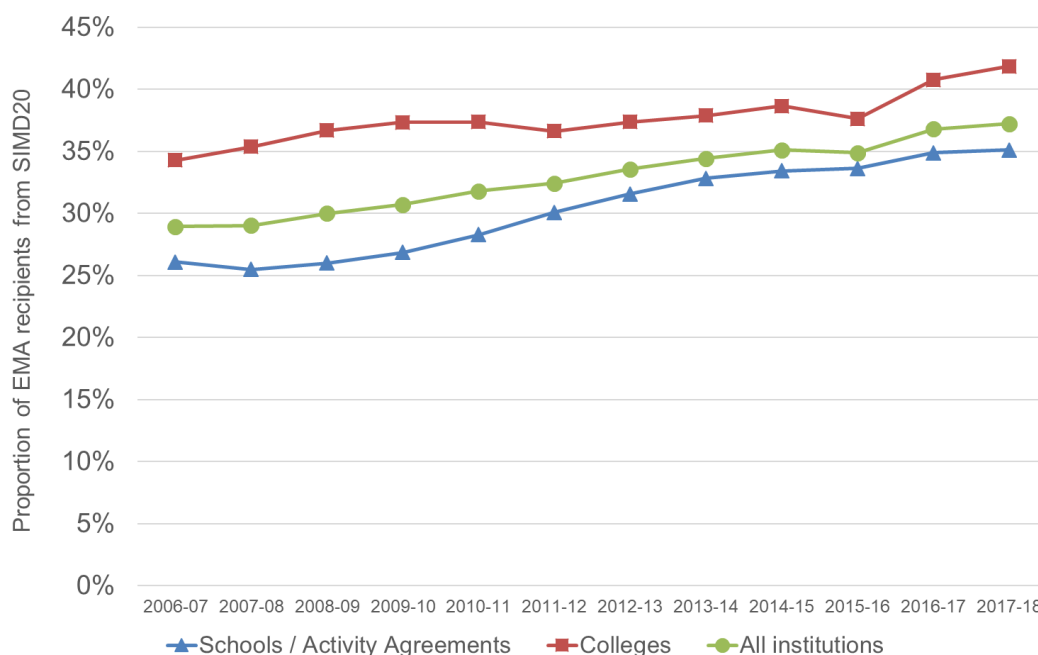


Figure 2 shows the proportion of recipients from the 20% most deprived areas over time, and shows an increase for all types of EMA over the year for all institution types.

This proportion has typically been higher for college (41.9% in 2017-18) than for school (34.2%) students. This is partly explained by the higher proportion of students at Scotland’s colleges from deprived areas.

3. EMA payments

Total cost

The total spend on EMA in 2017-18 was £23.0 million. This is a decrease of £1.7 million from the previous year due to the reduced number of recipients.

Of this, £15.7 million was spent on school recipients (68.4% of total payments), £6.6 million on college payments (28.7%) and £0.7 million on activity agreements (2.9%).

The proportion of EMA spends for each gender was 50.9% for females and 49.1% for males.

Average payment per person, by gender

The average payment per EMA recipient was £788 in 2017-18. This is an increase from £777 in the previous year.

Amongst EMA recipients, school students received on average £839 over the academic year, college students £725 and activity agreements £506. The difference is due to the number of weeks in which each type is eligible to receive the benefit.

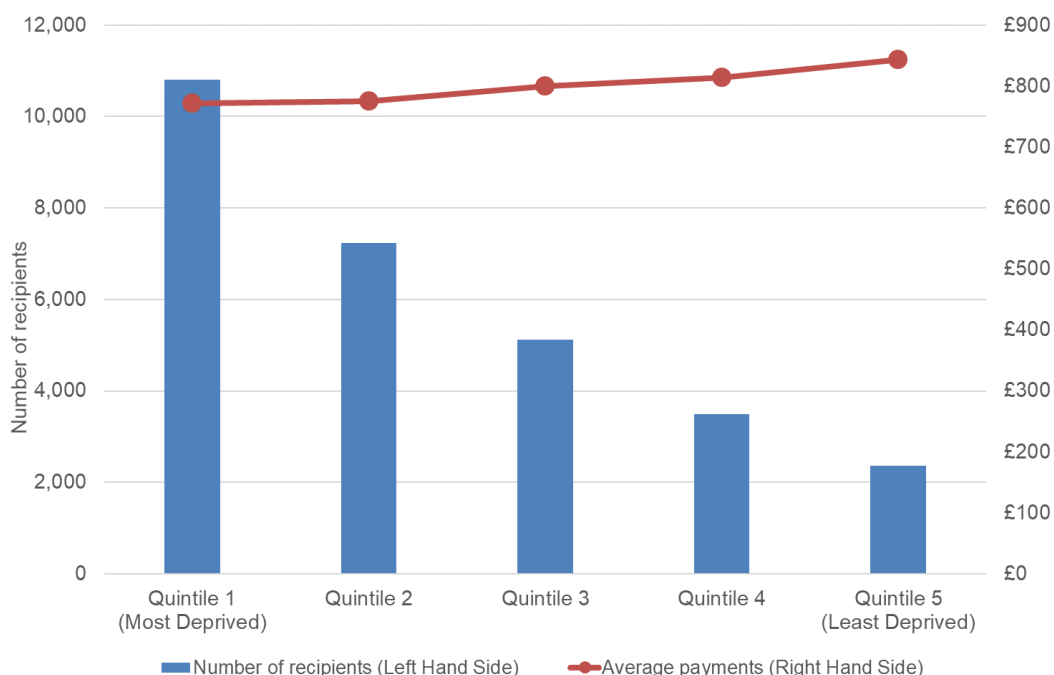
On average, female recipients receive £793, slightly more than male recipients (£784).

Average payment per person, by deprivation

Students from the most deprived areas are more likely to receive EMA: 10,810 recipients from Quintile 1 (the most deprived) versus 2,370 recipients from Quintile 5 (the least deprived).

However, EMA recipients from the most deprived areas receive on average a smaller amount (£772 for Quintile 1 versus £788 for Quintile 5)⁵.

Figure 3: Recipients and average payments by SIMD level, 2017-18



⁵ The average amount varies due to the different number of weeks for which recipients are eligible for EMA.

Appendix A – Summary of policy changes

The following table shows the main policy changes which have happened since the launch of the EMA in Scotland.

| Time of policy change | Description of policy |
|------------------------------|---|
| August 2004 | EMA introduced across Scotland for 16 year olds, initially consisting of weekly payments of £10, £20 and £30 categories dependent on household income. Following satisfactory attendance and learning agreement completion, bonus payments of £150 each were payable in January and June. |
| Academic year 2005-06 | Eligibility extended to all 17 year olds. |
| Academic year 2006-07 | Eligibility extended to all 18 year olds. |
| Academic year 2007-08 | Eligibility extended to all 19 year olds. |
| Academic year 2009-10 | £10 and £20 payments were removed, and income threshold for £30 payment was set to £20,351. Additional higher income threshold of £22,403 was introduced for families with more than one dependent child. |
| Academic year 2010-11 | Bonus payments removed from all recipients. |
| January 2016 | EMA programme extended to include part-time, non-advanced college courses. Income thresholds increased to £24,421 for families with one dependent child and £26,884 for families with more than one dependent child in the household. |

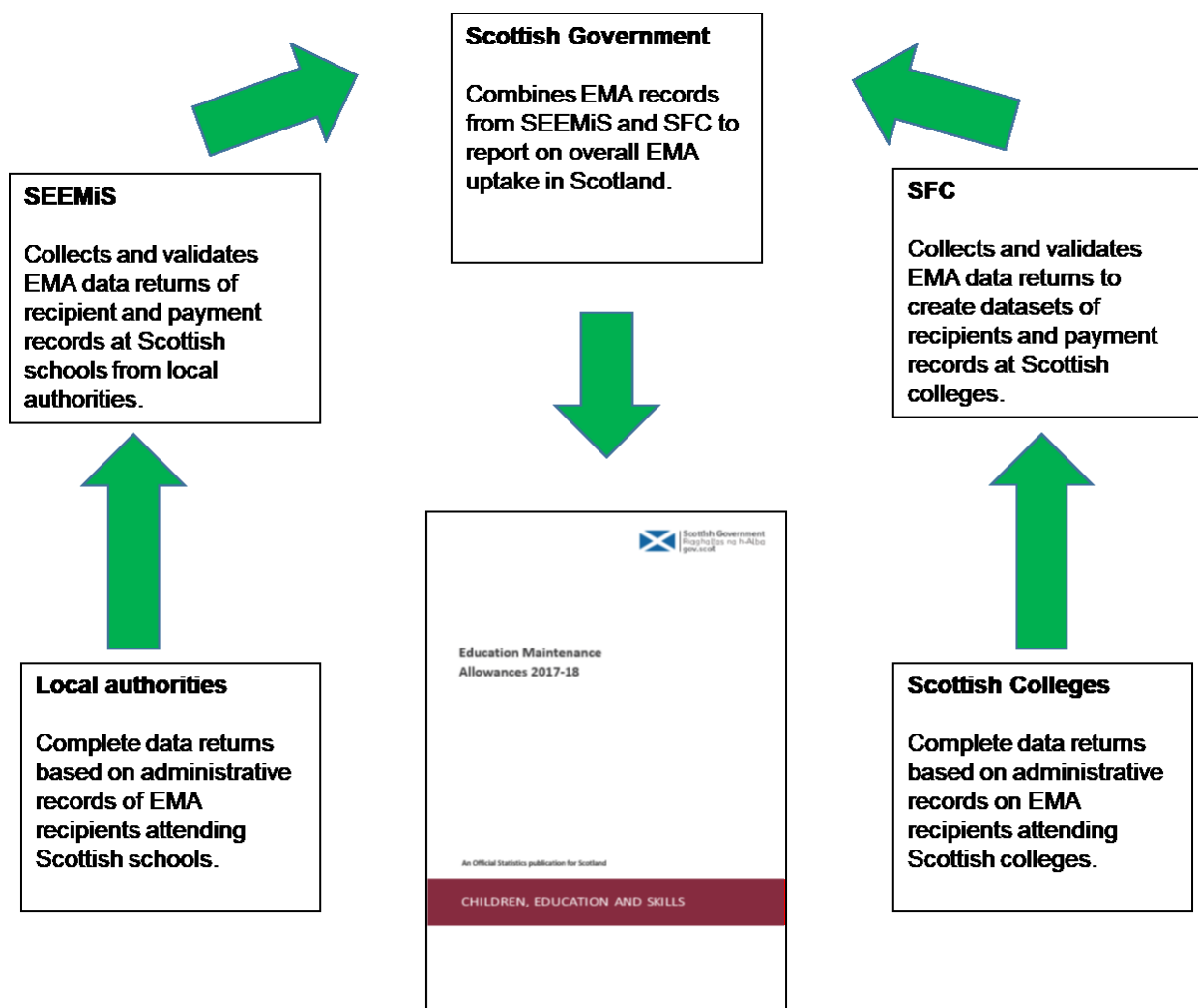
Appendix B – Methodology note

Data sources

For schools and activity agreements, the Scottish Government collects the data on EMAs from local authorities⁶ (the administrators of the EMA payments) and collated by SEEMiS.

For colleges, the data is collected from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), who administer, collate and validate the data.

Where analysis refers to institutions rather than schools or colleges, data from both Scottish schools and Scottish colleges have been combined to report on all Scottish institutions.



⁶ Returns from the Local Authorities of Shetland Islands and Orkney Islands include a small number of returns for students at colleges.

Coverage

EMA are means tested payments to young people participating in a school or college, or an activity agreement. The data included in this publication cover those who participate in the EMA programme, but not necessarily all of those who were eligible to participate.

Although measures are taken within both the school and college data to minimise the chances of more than one record being created for the same student, an element of duplication is likely to still occur where a student moves from school into college in the same academic year. At the moment there is not a reliable way of identifying such cases. Efforts are being made in the long term to improve the collection of Scottish Candidate Numbers (SCNs) for EMA recipients in colleges. If this succeeds it may be possible to use SCNs, possibly in combination with other student characteristics, to identify those who move between school and college and therefore reduce any associated over-counting.

School Pupil Population

The number of 16-19 year old school pupils is calculated using public and private school population data for Scotland. This year, the number of pupils aged 16-19 attending an Independent School in Scotland was requested from and provided by Education Scotland from the Pupil Census.

Pupil Census data can be accessed at www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/dspupcensus.

College Student Population

The number of full time 16-19 year old college students is calculated using Scottish Funding Council data. The definition of full time used is consistent with eligibility criterion for EMA, and the reference age was as at August 2017.

Age

The age of recipient refers to their age as at 30th September in the year of study. Although young people cannot receive EMA until they are 16 years old, some are recorded as being 15 for this reason.

Deprived areas of Scotland

Analysis of entrants from deprived areas of Scotland is based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). SIMD 2016 combines 38 indicators across 7 domains (income, employment, health, education, crime, access and housing). The overall index is a weighted sum of the seven domain scores based on the relative importance of the domain in measuring multiple deprivation, the robustness of the data and the time lag between data collection and the production of the SIMD.

EMA recipients from the 20% most deprived areas are those whose home address was within one of the 20% lowest ranked areas in Scotland. The SIMD is split into 6,976 small areas called Data Zones, with 20 per cent lowest ranked areas comprising of Data Zones 1 to 1,395. A process of postcode matching was undertaken to identify which Data Zones recipients belong to. In 2017-18, 99.7% of

recipients were successfully matched through this process. Those recipients whose postcodes belonged to one of the 20% lowest ranked Data Zones in the SIMD are classified as entrants from deprived areas.

SIMD 2016 has been used for academic years 2016-17 and 2017-18. SIMD 2012 has been used for academic years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. SIMD 2009 was used for all other academic years.

This is in line with the approach taken by Scottish Governments Education Analytical Services Directorate for School data. The use of SIMD 2016 for 2016-17 differs to the approach taken when publishing University and College Statistics.

More information can be found at www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD.

Coverage of Spend Data

The financial figures in this publication refer to the amount spent on EMA payments only. This publication does not cover any other costs associated with the EMA programme, such as administrative costs.

A small percentage of local authority payments (estimated in previous years to be less than 0.5%) are not recorded on management information systems. These 'manual' payments are excluded from the figures presented in this publication.

Data presentation

In all tables and figures, the number of recipients has been rounded to the nearest 5. Figures on EMA spend have been rounded to the nearest pound. Unknown values are not displayed individually in tables but are included in totals. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding and the inclusion of unknown values. Unless stated otherwise, percentages are calculated from unrounded values.

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

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The data collected for this statistical bulletin may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact FHEstatistics@gov.scot for further information.

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