

Quick Reference: block grant amounts

The block grant amounts that dioceses will receive for all ordinands funded through RME in 2020/21 are shown below for easy reference. RME only applies to ordinands who began training in September 2017 or later. Any ordinands who began training prior to September 2017 continue to be funded under the old system.

Table 1: Annual block grant paid to dioceses by Ministry Division for 2020/21

Age Range	Band	Block Grant Generated (£)	Years Payable
<32	1	16,299	3
32-39	2	16,299	2
40-54	3	7,071	3
55+	4	7,071	2

The categories of block grant expenditure for 2020/21 are shown below:

Table 2: Annual tuition costs and allowances to be paid from the block grant by dioceses.

Pathway	Tuition Costs (£)	Single Accommodation Allowance (£)	Married Accommodation Allowance (£)	Personal/Book Allowance (£)	Average Travel Allowance (£)	Total (£)
Residential	9,141	5,745	3,468	2,211 - 3,354*		17,097 - 18,240 (S)* 14,820 - 15,372(M)*
Full-Time Non-Residential	7,620			1,254	1,143*	10,017
Regional	6,351			318 (book only)	402*	7,071

*These is a range based on vacation and travel allowances. See further detail in Table 4 below.

Table 3: Guideline annual travel expenses to be paid from the block grant by dioceses for 2020/21

Residential		Fulltime Non-Residential	
Distance between home and TEI (Miles)	Single Travel Allowance	Distance between home and TEI (Miles)	Travel Allowance
Less than 20	£0	Less than 20	£159
21-50	£183	21-40	£288
51-100	£297	41-65	£504
101-150	£393	Over 65	£720
151-200	£480	Mileage rate 1-4,999	30p per mile
201-250	£591	Mileage rate +5,000	20p per mile

For regional courses there is an initial travel allowance of £150, with excess travel paid at 30p per mile (20p after 5,000 miles)

Table 4: Allowances payable from the block grant

	Residential Full-Time (£pa)	Non-Residential FT (£pa)	Regional (£pa)
Combined Personal/Book Allowance	1,722	1,254	318 (book only)
Short Vacation Allowance	489		
Long Vacation Allowance*	552		

*Not applicable for final year.

The Block Grant in Summary

Ordinands entering training have their tuition fees and some allowances paid for by a block grant, given to dioceses according to the number and ages of their ordinands, irrespective of their training pathway choices.

Funding for the block grant comes from the Archbishops' Council's Training for Ministry budget, which is made up of contributions from all dioceses on an apportioned basis (often referred to as "Vote 1").

The block grant system is used to fund all ordinands who began their studies from September 2017. Any ordinands who started training prior to this continue to be funded under the old framework. Similarly, a few ordinands with exceptional circumstances continue to be funded directly by the National Ministry Team, such as ministers from other denominations.

The block grant has been designed to provide greater flexibility and accountability for how funding is used. Here are three important features you should bear in mind when managing your ministerial educational fund:

1. The block grant is paid to the diocese, not the ordinand

Under the block grant system ordinands no longer receive money from the National Ministry Team directly. Instead, an aggregate amount is paid to the diocese, who are then responsible for paying tuition and maintenance costs. It is simplest to think of an ordinand as *generating* block grant, rather than receiving it, so we use this term throughout the RME handbook.

2. Block grant amounts are determined by the age of your ordinands, not their pathway choices

Younger ordinands tend to follow more expensive pathways than older ordinands, so the amount of money dioceses receive for ordination training has been set to reflect this. Block grant amounts have been calculated based on the typical pathway choices for different age groups, and are reviewed annually to stay current.

The block grant is not though a recommendation of which pathway ordinands should follow. You are free to send an ordinand on whichever pathway you wish, with the final decision ultimately resting with the sponsoring bishop. However, block grant funding will only be provided for ordinands on approved pathways at accredited Theological Education Institutions (TEIs).

There are two important consequences of this for dioceses. Firstly, depending on the choices you make, an ordinand may generate more or less money than the cost of their training, leaving you with a surplus or deficit for that ordinand. Secondly, depending on the choices you make, you may continue to receive money after an ordinand has already been ordained, or not receive funding even though they are still in training.

3. Block grant money generated by one ordinand needn't be spent on that ordinand alone or even in the same cohort

Surpluses created by receiving more money from the block grant for an ordinand than their pathway costs can be spent on covering any deficits created by sending other ordinands on more expensive pathways than their own block grant generates. It can also be held on to for subsequent years, to cover potential deficits in future cohorts. So block grant generated in previous years can be spent in the current academic year.

This flexibility is one of the most important aspects of RME, and has meant that in the initial years of implementation we have not received any evidence of any ordinand being refused a pathway choice on financial grounds. We would strongly encourage dioceses to make full use of this flexibility, by spending any surplus block grant money on the training of your ordinands, either in the same year or in the years immediately following.