1. This note explains the basis on which the discretionary Social Fund budget has been allocated for 2018-19. The Social Fund year runs from 1st April to 31st March each year.

**Total Discretionary Social Fund Budget**

2. The total gross discretionary Social Fund Budget for Great Britain for 2018-19 will be £419.5m.

3. The national loans budget is funded exclusively by recoveries from existing loan debt.

4. I have allocated a single national Social Fund budget for loans which will continue to provide consistency of Budgeting Loan outcomes for applicants no matter where they live.