



SFC Statistical publication

Students Eligible for Funding, 2013-14

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Summary: To inform stakeholders of the enrolments of students eligible for funding at the Scottish higher education institutions in 2013-14

FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's colleges and/or universities

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Introduction

1. This bulletin contains information on the numbers of students eligible for funding at the 19 higher education institutions (HEIs) funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in the academic year 2013-14, see Annex B. The figures shown are sector level aggregates.
2. In general, students eligible for funding are those paying home fees, not on full-cost recovery courses and on courses open to any suitably qualified applicant. Until 2012-13, a large majority of students from the UK and the rest of the EU have been eligible for funding. However, the 2012-13 academic session saw the introduction of deregulated tuition fees for students from the rest of the UK (RUK) entering undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses, and students paying such fees are not eligible for funding. RUK students who started their courses prior to 2012-13 continue to pay the same level of tuition fees as Scottish and other EU students and remain eligible for funding.
3. Students not eligible for funding include those from outwith the EU, those on full-cost recovery courses and RUK students paying deregulated tuition fees. The figures, therefore, cover the majority of the students on the Scottish HEIs' mainstream courses. Annex D contains a more detailed explanation of eligibility for funding.

Early Statistics Return

4. The figures in this bulletin are taken from SFC's Early Statistics Return. The Early Statistics are aggregate numbers of students eligible for funding, expressed as full-time equivalents (FTEs). Further information on the Early Statistics Return can be found in Annexes D, E and F.

Students eligible for funding in 2013-14

5. The total FTE number of students eligible for funding in 2013-14 at the HEIs funded by SFC was 145,200, see Table 1. Of this total:
 - 15,900 FTE (10.9%) were part-time students
 - 6,900 FTE (4.7%) were research postgraduates
 - 11,300 FTE (7.8%) were taught postgraduates
 - 127,000 FTE (87.5%) were undergraduates

Changes in students eligible for funding between 2012-13 and 2013-14

6. Table 1 shows comparisons of the number of students eligible for funding in 2012-13 and 2013-14. As previously stated, RUK students paying deregulated

tuition fees introduced in 2012-13 are not eligible for funding, see paragraphs 2 and 3.

7. Changes between 2012-13 and 2013-14 include:
 - total FTE number of students eligible for funding declined by -2,800 FTE (-1.9%)
 - full-time students decreased by -2,400 FTE (-1.8%), with part-time students decreasing by -380 FTE (-2.3%)
 - research postgraduates increased by (+5.4%), taught postgraduates increased by (+7.9%) and undergraduates decreased by (-3.0%)
8. The decrease in undergraduates is partly due to new rest of UK students being liable to pay deregulated tuition fees and, therefore, not being eligible for funding, see paragraphs 10 to 13. However, the overall decrease in undergraduates eligible for funding of 3,900 FTE is less than the decrease in RUK students eligible for funding of 4,200 FTE. This means the decline in the numbers of rest of UK students who are eligible for funding has been more than offset by increased enrolments of Scottish and other EU students.
9. The decline in the total number of students eligible for funding is also likely to be partly affected by consolidation policies, see Annex C and paragraphs 16 to 18 for further details.

Deregulated tuition fees and continuing rest of UK students

10. As indicated in paragraph 2, in general, RUK students entering undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses from 2012-13 onwards were liable to be charged deregulated tuition fees. Students paying deregulated tuition fees are not eligible for funding.
11. As an indication of the effect this has had on the numbers of students eligible for funding, the more detailed individual student records collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) indicate that 5,200 FTE RUK students eligible for funding started on full-time undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses at the Scottish HEIs in 2011-12. However, not every student from the rest of the UK who started a course in 2012-13 onwards would have had to pay the deregulated tuition fees, as some would have been eligible to pay the same fees as Scottish and other EU students. For instance, some RUK students will have dual RUK/EU status and there are some courses, such as nursing and midwifery pre-registration courses, where the HEIs agreed to charge RUK students the same tuition fees as Scottish and other EU students.
12. RUK students who started their programmes prior to 2012-13 are not liable to pay deregulated tuition fees and can still be classified as being eligible for funding. The RUK students who were not liable to pay deregulated tuition fees

because they started their courses prior to 2012-13 but who would have been liable if they had started their courses from 2012-13 onwards are defined as being continuing RUK students. The numbers of continuing RUK students will gradually decline to zero over the next few academic sessions.

13. There were 7,800 FTE full-time continuing RUK students in 2013-14, compared to 12,000 in 2012-13. Taught postgraduates accounted for 230 FTE of these continuing RUK students in 2013-14, while 7,500 FTE were undergraduates. Continuing RUK students made up 6.5% of all full-time undergraduate students eligible for funding and 2.8% of all full-time taught postgraduates.

Subject areas

14. Table 1 shows the FTE number of students eligible for funding enrolled on controlled subjects. The controlled subject areas are defined to be those subjects that the Scottish Government sets intake targets for. Enrolments in the controlled subject areas made up 17,100 (11.8%) of the total FTE number of students eligible for funding. For taught postgraduates, controlled subjects, principally initial teacher education courses, made up 17.2% of the total enrolments.
15. For undergraduates, the controlled subject areas (Medicine, Dentistry, Initial Teacher Education, and Nursing and Midwifery pre-registration) made up 11.9% of the total FTE number of students eligible for funding. 44,100 (34.7%) of undergraduates were enrolled on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects, see Annex F for further details of STEM subjects.

Consolidation of controlled and uncontrolled subject areas

16. Annex C gives details of the Scottish Government's consolidation policies for controlled and non-controlled subject areas for 2013-14.
17. In order to adhere to the consolidation policy for non-controlled subject areas, an institution's total enrolments of full-time undergraduates in these subject areas could not exceed its indicative number by more than 10%. The sector total of the institutions' non-controlled indicative numbers for 2013-14 was 89,700. The total FTE number of full-time undergraduate Scottish and other EU students in the non-controlled subject areas was 92,700, which is 3.4% above the indicative number. Thus the sector as a whole has adhered to the Scottish Government's consolidation policy for full-time undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas.
18. In order to adhere to the consolidation policy for controlled subject areas, an institution's enrolments in a controlled subject area could not exceed its indicative number by more than 10% or 10 FTE places, whichever was the larger. At sector level, the percentage difference between the FTE number of

enrolments, which include RUK students not eligible for funding, and the sum of the institutions' indicative numbers for each controlled subject area were:

- Medicine (+4.2%)
- Dentistry (+6.9%)
- Primary Initial Teacher Education (+6.6%)
- Secondary Initial Teacher Education (+2.5%)
- Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (-4.0%)

19. The sector as a whole has therefore adhered to the Scottish Government's consolidation policy for all of the controlled subject areas.

Changes in students eligible for funding between 2009-10 and 2013-14

20. Table 2 shows comparisons the numbers of students eligible for funding over the last five years, covering the 2009-10 to 2013-14 academic sessions.

21. Between 2009-10 and 2013-14 there was a decrease in the total FTE number of students eligible for funding of 9,700 (-6.3%). 2013-14 was the second session in which new RUK students were liable to pay the deregulated tuition fees and not be eligible for funding. Prior to 2012-13, the vast majority of RUK students would have been eligible for funding.

22. Other changes between 2009-10 and 2013-14 include:

- the number of full-time and sandwich students decreased by 6,400 FTE (-4.7%), while part-time provision decreased by 3,400 FTE (-17.6%)
- the FTE number of research postgraduate students increased by 720 (11.6%), undergraduate students decreased by 9,300 FTE (-6.8%), while the number of taught postgraduates decreased by 1,200 (-9.5%).

Rounding of data

23. Each figure in this bulletin has been rounded independently, which is why there may be some slight differences between totals and the apparent sums of their component parts. Figures quoted are rounded to the nearest 100 if over 1,000 or to the nearest 10 if under 100. Percentages are derived from unrounded figures.

24. If you have questions about this bulletin, email: dparr@sfc.ac.uk or Telephone: 0131 313 6548.

Students eligible for funding, 2012-13 and 2013-14 (1,2)

Funding subject group by level of study and mode of study

Level of Study/Subject Areas	2012-13			2013-14			Change		
	Full-time FTE	Part-time FTE	Total FTE	Full-time FTE	Part-time FTE	Total FTE	Full-time FTE	Part-time FTE	Total FTE
Research postgraduate	5,623	911	6,533	5,975	913	6,888	6.3%	0.2%	5.4%
Taught postgraduate									
Controlled subject areas									
Initial Teacher Education	1,452	7	1,459	1,796	30	1,826	23.7%	320.1%	25.2%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	83	1	84	113	-	113	36.1%	-100.0%	35.3%
Non-controlled subject areas	5,874	3,032	8,905	6,186	3,151	9,337	5.3%	3.9%	4.8%
Total	7,409	3,039	10,448	8,095	3,181	11,276	9.3%	4.7%	7.9%
Of which: Continuing RUK (2)	214			228			6.6%		
Undergraduate									
Controlled subject areas									
Medicine	3,958	-	3,958	3,633	-	3,633	-8.2%		-8.2%
Dentistry	813	-	813	760	-	760	-6.5%		-6.5%
Initial Teacher Education	3,508	21	3,529	3,314	30	3,343	-5.5%	43.0%	-5.3%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	7,625	43	7,668	7,247	185	7,432	-5.0%	330.9%	-3.1%
Non-controlled subject areas									
STEM subject areas (3)	40,800	3,901	44,701	40,133	3,932	44,065	-1.6%	0.8%	-1.4%
Other subject areas	61,922	8,362	70,283	60,130	7,655	67,784	-2.9%	-8.5%	-3.6%
Total	118,624	12,326	130,951	115,216	11,801	127,017	-2.9%	-4.3%	-3.0%
Of which: Continuing RUK (2)	11,774			7,533			-36.0%		
Total	131,655	16,276	147,932	129,286	15,895	145,181	-1.8%	-2.3%	-1.9%

Table 2: Students eligible for funding, 2009-10 to 2013-14 (1,2)

Mode of study, level of study and year

Level of Study/Mode of Study	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (2)	2013-14	Percentage change from 2012-13 to 2013-14	Percentage change from 2009-10 to 2013-14
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
Research postgraduate							
Full-time	5,245	5,553	5,760	5,623	5,975	6.3%	13.9%
Part-time	924	914	863	911	913	0.2%	-1.2%
Total	6,169	6,466	6,622	6,533	6,888	5.4%	11.6%
Taught postgraduate (4)							
Full-time	8,506	7,615	7,669	7,409	8,095	9.3%	-4.8%
Part-time	3,950	3,792	3,310	3,039	3,181	4.7%	-19.5%
Total	12,456	11,408	10,979	10,448	11,276	7.9%	-9.5%
Undergraduate (4)							
Full-time	121,889	123,063	122,427	118,624	115,216	-2.9%	-5.5%
Part-time	14,409	13,504	12,817	12,326	11,801	-4.3%	-18.1%
Total	136,298	136,567	135,244	130,951	127,017	-3.0%	-6.8%
All Levels of Study							
Full-time	135,641	136,231	135,856	131,655	129,286	-1.8%	-4.7%
Part-time	19,283	18,210	16,990	16,276	15,895	-2.3%	-17.6%

Notes for tables

Number	Table(s) Reference	Note
(1)	1,2	The numbers of students eligible for funding exclude students from outwith the EU, rest of UK (RUK) students paying deregulated tuition fees, students on courses financed from other public sources, students on courses which are closed to normal applicants or are provided on a full cost recovery basis, and many students on Continuing Education courses which are not funded by SFC. The figures include a forecast element. See Annex D for further details.
(2)	1,2	<p>RUK students starting taught postgraduate and undergraduate courses from 2012-13 onwards were liable to pay deregulated tuition fees. Students paying such fees are not eligible for funding.</p> <p>The RUK students who were not liable to pay deregulated tuition fees, because they started their courses prior to 2012-13 but who would have been liable if they had started their courses from 2012-13 onwards, are defined as being continuing RUK students. Such students remain eligible for funding.</p>
(3)	1	STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. See Annex F for further details.
(4)	2	Some of the controlled Nursing and Midwifery pre-registration provision is at taught postgraduate level; however, prior to 2011-12 all of this provision was recorded as being at undergraduate level. In 2011-12 there were 50 FTE taught postgraduate students eligible for funding on controlled Nursing and Midwifery pre-registration courses.

Institutions funded by SFC in 2013-14

Edinburgh Napier University
Glasgow Caledonian University
Glasgow School of Art
Heriot-Watt University
The Open University in Scotland
Queen Margaret University
Robert Gordon University
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
SRUC (1)
University of Aberdeen
University of Abertay Dundee
University of Dundee
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of St Andrews
University of Stirling
University of Strathclyde
University of the Highlands and Islands
University of the West of Scotland

(1) SRUC was formed from the merger of the Scottish Agricultural College and the land-based further education colleges of Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge on 1 October 2012.

Consolidation policies

1. The Scottish Government has a consolidation policy of limiting the numbers of full-time and sandwich undergraduate students. To ensure that institutions conform to this consolidation policy, SFC sets each institution an indicative number of full-time and sandwich undergraduate students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subject areas, which the institution is not expected to exceed. Recognising that planning student numbers is subject to some uncertainty SFC allows institutions certain leeway, called the tolerance threshold, within which an institution can exceed its indicative number without facing a potential financial penalty for doing so.
2. Changes were made to the consolidation policy for 2012-13 and the indicative numbers were revised to reflect these changes. For 2011-12 the non-controlled subject areas were classified into two groups: priority and non-priority subject areas. Institutions had separate indicative numbers for priority and non-priority subjects, with tolerance thresholds of 10% for priority subject areas and 7% for non-priority subject areas. From 2012-13 institutions have been given one indicative number relating to all full-time undergraduate activity in the non-controlled subject areas, with a tolerance threshold of 10%.
3. Prior to 2012-13 the consolidation policy related to all full-time undergraduate students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subject areas. For 2013-14 the indicative number related only to Scottish and other EU students eligible for funding, that is continuing RUK students were not included. This is because the purpose of the consolidation policy is to avoid too many students applying to the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) for their fees to be paid and for financial support with their studies. In general, RUK students can not apply to SAAS for their fees to be paid and for financial support.
4. The definition of the controlled subject areas was revised for 2012-13. The controlled subject areas are now defined to be the Medicine, Dentistry, Initial Teacher Education and, Nursing and Midwifery pre-registration provision for which the Scottish Government sets intake targets. As well as these subject areas, prior to 2012-13 the controlled undergraduate subject areas also included Veterinary Medicine and all other provision within the Education subject group. The full-time enrolments in these subject areas are now being counted against the indicative numbers.
5. Further information on the consolidation policy and information on the standard conditions of grant attached to the allocations of funding for the higher education institutions for 2013-14 is available on SFC's website at: www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Funding_Outcome_Agreements_2013-

6. The Scottish Government introduced consolidation limits for the controlled subjects for the first time in 2012-13. These limits were introduced because over-recruitment in controlled subjects can lead to problems for manpower planning and for access to guaranteed training places, or jobs in the case of nursing and midwifery, after graduation. As the controlled consolidation policy relates to manpower planning, RUK students, both those eligible and those not eligible for funding, are included in the consolidation limits.
7. SFC assigned each institution an indicative number for each of the following subject areas: Medicine, Dentistry, Primary Initial Teacher Education (includes Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)), Secondary Initial Teacher Education (includes PGDE), and, Nursing and Midwifery pre-registration. Due to the small numbers involved for some of these subject areas at some of the institutions, a tolerance level of 10% or 10 FTE, whichever was the larger, was allowed for these subject areas.

Background information

Eligibility for funding

Students whose places are **eligible for funding** are those who satisfy the inclusion criteria of SFC's main methods of determining allocations of funding. Generally, this means those who are:

- domiciled in Scotland or elsewhere in the EU, or are rest of UK students not paying deregulated tuition fees
- entitled to pay home fees
- taking courses that are funded by SFC and open to any suitably qualified applicant

These figures, therefore, cover the majority of the students on SFC-funded institutions' mainstream courses.

Among the students whose places are **not eligible for funding** are those:

- from outwith the EU
- RUK students paying deregulated tuition fees
- on courses that are financed from other public sources
- on courses which are closed to general applicants, eg a course provided solely for the employees of a particular firm
- on any other cost recovery courses, for which the income from the fees paid by the students, plus any funding from any sources other than SFC, covers, or is intended to cover all of the costs of provision, including an appropriate share of the institutions' overheads, such as central administration, buildings, heating, etc

The figures therefore exclude many courses such as those in-service teacher training courses that are funded by the local education authorities and many students on continuing education courses.

Early Statistics Return

The figures in this bulletin come from SFC's Early Statistics Return, which asked institutions to provide FTE student numbers, including forecasts of enrolments expected later in the academic years, excluding students who withdrew shortly after the start of the course. The forecasts of the numbers of enrolments later in the academic years, after the census date of 1 December for the Early Statistics Return, were necessarily subject to some uncertainty.

For the purposes of the return, students were classified using the following categories:

Level of study

- Research postgraduate
- Taught postgraduate
- Undergraduate

Annex E includes a definition of each level of study.

Subject areas

Subjects are shown in the subject areas used by SFC for monitoring for under-enrolment against allocations of funded places and for adherence to the consolidation policy, see Annex E.

Mode of study

- Full-time and sandwich
- Part-time

Annex E includes a definition of mode of study.

The notes of guidance for the Early Statistics Return, including a description of the FTE conversion factors used, can be found on SFC's website at:

www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidance/Early_Statistics_Return_Guidance_2013-14.pdf

Categories used in the Early Statistics Return

Level of course

Research postgraduate

Postgraduates mainly engaged in research whether or not they receive any formal teaching. This includes students taking taught Masters degrees designed specifically as a training in research methods and intended as preparation for advanced supervised research.

Taught postgraduate

Postgraduates attending courses which are mainly taught, including graduate certificates and diplomas, although they may require students to complete a dissertation. All students on Professional Graduate Diplomas of Education (PGDE) courses are included, as are all students on award-bearing in-service teacher education courses, apart from a few who are research postgraduates, as above.

Undergraduate

All those students, other than postgraduates, eligible for inclusion in the Early Statistics Return. This includes those taking undergraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates, HNDs, HNCs and other advanced courses.

Mode of study

Full-time and sandwich

For the purposes of this return, a full-time course, or research study, involves the student in an average of at least 21 hours study a week, including private study, for periods of more than 24 weeks per year or, in the final year, for 24 weeks or less if the earlier years met the definition of full-time.

Part-time

All other courses including short full-time courses with an overall course length of 24 weeks or less, ie full-time courses whose total length of course is less than or equal to 24 weeks.

Further information is contained in the notes of guidance for the Early Statistics Return, available on SFC's website at:

[www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidance/Early Statistics Return Guidance 2013-14.pdf](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidance/Early_Statistics_Return_Guidance_2013-14.pdf)

Subject areas

SFC introduced a new method of funding for teaching for 2012-13. Previously SFC gave each institution an allocation of funded places, split over 12 funding subject groups and four levels of study (for funding purposes taught postgraduates are split into two categories depending on the fee level associated with the students). Each funding subject group had its own unit of resource, with these being used to derive the allocations of funding. SFC is now using allocations of funded places to price groups to validate current levels of funding and will only alter an institution's funding if the validated amount is more than a certain percentage away from the current level of funding.

As SFC is no longer using funding subject groups to inform allocations of funding for teaching, there was no requirement to continue collecting information on the amount of provision in all of the funding subject groups in the Early Statistics Return. There is also no requirement to collect information on price groups through the Early Statistics Return as this information can be obtained through the detailed Individual Student Returns collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return for 2013-14 is required by SFC to monitor for under-enrolment against allocations of funded places and for adherence to the consolidation policy. Undergraduate enrolments in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are also collected as SFC made allocations of additional funded places for provision in these subject areas for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

The STEM subjects are defined in terms of the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) subject codes used by HESA and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), see the table at the end of this Annex. The subject information is recorded in the 'Subject(s) of Course' fields in the HESA returns. These are the subjects of the overall qualification (for example, those specified in a named award) that the student is aiming for, and not the subjects that the student happens to be studying in a particular year. Thus, students aiming for a degree in physics are counted wholly under 'STEM subjects', even though the current year may include studying, say, business or languages.

More than one subject of course aim

Students can have up to three subjects of course aim recorded in their HESA returns to take account of students studying for joint and combined degrees. In some cases, the different subjects will belong to the same subject category (STEM, Other

Subjects), so a student can be allocated to that subject category. In cases where a student has subjects of course aim in both subject categories, the student's FTE is apportioned as follows:

- **Balanced combination** (for example, a degree in Mathematics and French). Each of the two subjects forms at least 40% of the overall programme of study. In such cases 50% of the FTE is allocated to STEM subjects and 50% to the other subjects
- **Major/minor combination** (for example, a degree in engineering with business studies). One subject is dominant, forming 60% or more of the programme of study and the minor subject forms between 25% and 40%. Any component of less than 25% is ignored for the purposes of recording combinations of the subjects of the overall course aim. In such cases 67% of the FTE should be counted to the subject category containing the major subject and the remaining 33% to the subject category containing the minor subject
- **Three subjects of course** (for example, a degree in politics, philosophy and economics). All three subjects form between 25% and 40% of the overall programme. In such cases a third of the student's FTE should be counted against the subject categories associated with the three subjects

Further information on the subject areas can be found in the notes of guidance for the Early Statistics Return, available on SFC's website at:

[www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidance/Early Statistics Return Guidance 2013-14.pdf](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidance/Early_Statistics_Return_Guidance_2013-14.pdf)

Table of subject areas for 2013-14 for undergraduates

Subject Area	JACS Subject Classification	
	Code	Subject Group/ Principal Subject
Controlled Subject Areas		
Clinical Medicine	A3	Clinical Medicine
Clinical Dentistry	A4	Clinical Dentistry
Pre-clinical Medicine	A1	Pre-clinical Medicine
Pre-clinical Dentistry	A2	Pre-clinical Dentistry
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	B7	Nursing (part of this provision)
BEd Primary/Music/PE/Technology	X1	Education (part of this provision)
Non-Controlled Subject Areas		
STEM subjects	C D <i>Excluding</i> D1 D2 F G H I J	Biological Sciences Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related subjects <i>Excluding</i> <i>Pre-clinical Veterinary Medicine</i> <i>Clinical Veterinary Medicine and</i> <i>Dentistry</i> Physical Sciences Mathematical Sciences Engineering Computer Sciences Technologies
Other subjects	All other subject codes <i>Including</i> D1 D2	<i>Pre-clinical Veterinary Medicine</i> <i>Clinical Veterinary Medicine and</i> <i>Dentistry</i>

Some other statistical publications dealing with aspects of Scottish higher education

Scottish Funding Council

Other publications produced by SFC relating to higher education are available on SFC's website at: www.sfc.ac.uk/statistics/statistics.aspx and www.sfc.ac.uk/reportspublications/reportspublications.aspx

Scottish Government

The Scottish Government publishes some information on higher education in Scotland. This can be found on the Scottish Government's website at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Lifelong-learning

Higher Education Statistics Agency

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes higher education statistics for the UK as a whole. Some of its publications contain figures for individual HEIs in Scotland. Details can be accessed from their website: www.hesa.ac.uk/

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