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Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Bill
[AS AMENDED AT STAGE 2]

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision establishing the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council and provision as to its functions; to make provision as to support for further and higher education; to make provision relating to bodies which provide further and higher education; and for connected purposes.

PART 1
FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION ETC.

Establishment of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council

1 Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council

(1) There is established a body to be known as the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council.

(2) Schedule 1 makes provision about the constitution of the Council and about certain administrative and other matters with respect to the Council.

2 Dissolution of other funding bodies

The following bodies are dissolved on such date as the Scottish Ministers may by order appoint—

(a) the Scottish Further Education Funding Council (established under section 7(1) of the 1992 Act); and

(b) the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (established by section 37(1) of that Act).

Provision of further and higher education etc.

3 The Council: general duty

It is the duty of the Council to exercise its functions for the purposes of securing the—

(a) coherent provision by the fundable bodies (as a whole) of a high quality of fundable further education and fundable higher education; and

(b) undertaking of research among the fundable bodies.
4 The Scottish Ministers: general duty

(1) It is the duty of the Scottish Ministers to provide support for—
   (a) the provision of fundable further education and fundable higher education by the fundable bodies; and
   (b) the undertaking of research among the fundable bodies.

(2) The Scottish Ministers are to do so—
   (a) by—
      (i) making grants to the Council under section 8 or 9 (or both); and
      (ii) such other means as they consider appropriate; and
   (b) to such extent as they may determine.

5 Fundable further and higher education

(1) In this Act (subject to subsection (2)), “fundable further education” means any programme of learning (which is not school education within the meaning of the 1980 Act) which—
   (a) prepares a person for a vocational qualification;
   (b) prepares a person for—
      (i) a qualification awarded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority; or
      (ii) a General Certificate of Education qualification of England and Wales or Northern Ireland;
   (c) prepares a person for access to a course of fundable higher education;
   (d) is designed to assist persons whose first language is not English to achieve any level of competence in English language;
   (e) provides instruction for persons who are participating in a programme of learning referred to in this subsection and who have support needs; or
   (f) prepares a person for participation in any programme of learning referred to in this subsection.

(2) In this Act, “fundable further education” also includes education of a type described in subsection (5)(b)(ii) to (iv) of section 1 (duty of education authorities to secure provision of education) of the 1980 Act.

(3) In this Act, “fundable higher education” means any course of education which—
   (a) is a course at a higher level in preparation for a higher diploma or certificate;
   (b) is a first degree course;
   (c) is a course for the education and training of teachers;
   (d) is a course of post-graduate studies (including a higher degree course);
   (e) is a course at a higher level in preparation for a qualification from a professional body;
   (f) is a course at a higher level not referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (e);
   (g) provides instruction for persons who are participating in a course of education referred to in this subsection and who have support needs; or
(h) is designed predominantly to prepare a person for participation in any course of education referred to in this subsection.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (3)(a), (e) and (f), a course is to be regarded as providing education at a higher level if its standard is higher than the standard of courses in preparation for examinations for—

(a) the Scottish Vocational Qualification Level 3;
(b) the Scottish Certificate of Education at Advanced Higher;
(c) the General Certificate of Education of England and Wales or Northern Ireland at advanced level; or
(d) the Scottish Qualifications Authority national certificate.

(6) For the purposes of subsection (3)(d), post-graduate studies includes a course following the award of a higher diploma or certificate.

(7) The Scottish Ministers may by order modify subsections (1) to (6).

(8) Before making an order under subsection (7), the Scottish Ministers must consult the Council.

6 Fundable bodies

(1) Schedule 2 specifies certain bodies for the purposes of this Act.

(2) In this Act, any reference to a fundable body means a body specified in that schedule.

7 Fundable bodies: further provision

(1) The Scottish Ministers may by order modify schedule 2 by—

(a) adding or removing any entry relating to a body; or
(b) varying any such entry,

but only if the Council has proposed, or has approved, the making of the modification.

(2) For the purposes of considering whether or not to propose or approve any modification under subsection (1), the Council must have regard to the desirability of ensuring that every entry in schedule 2 relates to a body for which there is, in the Council’s opinion, suitable—

(a) provision in relation to the governance and management of the body;
(b) provision for the appointment of an officer who is responsible for—

(i) signing the accounts of the expenditure and receipts of the body;
(ii) ensuring the propriety and regularity of the finances of the body; and
(iii) ensuring that the resources of the body are used economically, efficiently and effectively;
(c) procedures for—

(i) assessing; and
(ii) enhancing,

the quality of the activities funded by financial support given to the body by the Council;
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(ca) procedures to ensure that academic staff employed by the body have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom, and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges they may have at the body;

(d) procedures for considering and resolving any grievances arising from the carrying on of the body’s activities;

(e) provision for the purposes of—
   (i) planning for the carrying on of the body’s activities; and
   (ii) development of the body’s activities;

(f) arrangements for making use of any credit and qualification framework promoted by the Council under section 14;

(g) arrangements for taking into account the educational and related needs (including support needs) of persons who are, and the likely educational and related needs (including support needs) of persons who might wish to become, students of the body;

(h) arrangements for taking into account, when determining what programmes of learning and courses of education to provide, the range of fundable further education and fundable higher education provided at the other fundable bodies; and

(i) provision, procedures or arrangements of such other kind as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations specify.

(3) When proposing or approving a modification under subsection (1) which adds to schedule 2 any entry relating to a body, the Council may make a recommendation to the Scottish Ministers as regards the application to the body of paragraph 90(1) of schedule 2 to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 (asp 11).

(4) The Scottish Ministers may by order modify paragraphs (a) to (h) of subsection (2).

(5) The Scottish Ministers may issue guidance in relation to any of the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) to (i) of subsection (2).

(6) Subsection (2) does not apply where the modification in question is required by reason only of a change of name of, or closure of, a body.

7A Support needs

(1) In this Act, a person has “support needs” if the person needs support for the purposes of overcoming a difficulty in learning, or a difficulty in participating in learning, which the person has.

(2) And—
   (a) a person has a difficulty in learning if the person has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of other persons within the same age group as the person; and
   (b) a person has a difficulty in participating in learning if the person has greater difficulty in participating in learning than the majority of other persons within the same age group as the person.
(3) But a person is not be to be taken as having a difficulty in learning, or a difficulty in participating in learning, solely because the language (or form of the language) in which the person is, or will be, taught is different to a language (or form of a language) which has at any time been spoken in the person’s home.

5

Funding of further and higher education etc.

8 Funding of the Council

(1) The Scottish Ministers may make grants to the Council.

(2) A grant made under subsection (1) is subject to such terms and conditions as the Scottish Ministers consider it appropriate to impose.

(3) Terms and conditions imposed under subsection (2) may, in particular—

(a) relate to—

(i) the repayment (in whole or in part) of a grant in such circumstances as they may specify;

(ii) the interest payable in respect of any period during which a sum due to the Scottish Ministers is outstanding;

(b) include the condition referred to in subsection (4) or (5) (or both).

(4) The condition is that, before the Council makes a payment to a fundable body under section 11(1) of such amount or description as the Scottish Ministers may in the condition specify, the fundable body is to comply with such matters concerning fundable bodies or any class of them as the Scottish Ministers may so specify.

(5) The condition is that—

(a) when making a payment to a fundable body under subsection (1) of section 11; and

(b) in such cases as the Scottish Ministers may in the condition specify, the Council is (under subsection (2) of that section) to impose on the body a condition making the requirement referred to in subsection (6).

(6) The requirement is that the fundable body to whom the payment is being made is to secure that the fees paid to the fundable body—

(a) by such class of persons as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify; and

(b) in connection with their attending—

(i) such programmes of learning as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify; or

(ii) such courses of education as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify, are equal to such fees as are, in relation to those persons attending those programmes and courses, payable under subsection (7).

(7) For the purposes of subsection (6), the Scottish Ministers may (in relation to those persons attending those programmes and courses) by order—

(a) specify, by reference to a particular academic year (“year A”), fees payable; and

(b) make provision authorising the Scottish Ministers to determine, in relation to subsequent academic years, fees payable that are—
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(i) in each case, no higher than the fees specified by reference to year A; or
(ii) in any case, higher than the fees specified by reference to year A provided that any increase in fees is no greater than is required in order to maintain the value in real terms of the fees specified by reference to year A.

(8) A condition imposed on a fundable body by virtue of subsection (5) is to make provision that is to apply if the fundable body fails to comply with the requirement referred to in subsection (6).

(9) A condition imposed on a fundable body by virtue of subsection (5) does not apply in relation to any fees which are payable, in accordance with regulations under section 1 (fees at universities and further education establishments) of the Education (Fees and Awards) Act 1983 (c.40), by students other than those falling within any class of persons prescribed by such regulations for the purposes of subsection (1) or (2) of that section.

(10) The Scottish Ministers may not specify programmes or courses under subsection (6)(b) in such a way as to discriminate between different programmes or courses which are—

(a) for the training of persons preparing to be teachers; and

(b) open only to persons holding a degree,

on the basis of the subject in which such training is given.

(11) Terms and conditions imposed under subsection (2) may not, except in so far as provided for in subsection (4), relate to the provision of financial support by the Council in respect of activities carried on by any particular fundable body or bodies.

(12) Terms and conditions imposed under subsection (2) may not—

(a) except in so far as provided for in subsections (5) to (7), be framed by reference to particular programmes of learning, courses of education or research (including the contents of such programmes or courses or the manner in which they are taught, supervised or assessed); or

(b) be framed by reference to the criteria for—

(i) the selection or appointment of academic staff; or

(ii) the admission of students.

(12A) Before making an order under subsection (6) or (7), the Scottish Ministers must consult—

(a) the Council;

(b) at least one body of persons which appears to the Scottish Ministers to be representative of students of the fundable bodies;

(c) such governing bodies of fundable bodies as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate; and

(d) such other persons as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.

(13) For the purposes of subsection (7)(b)(ii), the Scottish Ministers may have regard to any retail price index.
9  Funding of the Council: additional grants

(1) In addition to any grants made under section 8, the Scottish Ministers may make further grants to the Council.

(2) In particular, a grant under subsection (1) may be made for the purposes of supporting—

(a) restructuring among the fundable bodies (including the merger or demerger of such bodies);

(b) innovation in the provision of fundable further education and fundable higher education; or

(c) collaboration between the fundable bodies.

(3) In making a grant under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must specify the purposes for which the grant is made.

(4) A grant made under subsection (1) is subject to such terms and conditions as the Scottish Ministers consider it appropriate to impose.

(5) Terms and conditions imposed under subsection (4) may, in particular—

(a) relate to—

(i) the repayment (in whole or in part) of a grant in such circumstances as they may specify;

(ii) the interest payable in respect of any period during which a sum due to the Scottish Ministers is outstanding;

(b) include the condition referred to in subsection (4) of section 8.

(6) But, except in the case of a grant made for the purposes of supporting any of the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (2)—

(a) the purposes specified under subsection (3);

(b) terms and conditions imposed under subsection (4),

may not be framed by reference to a particular fundable body.

10  Administration of funds

(1) The Council is, for the purposes of—

(a) providing support (whether financial or otherwise) for the activities specified in subsection (3); and

(b) exercising its other functions,

responsible for administering the funds mentioned in subsection (2).

(2) The funds are—

(a) all grants made to it under sections 8 and 9; and

(b) any other funds made available to it for those purposes.

(3) The activities are—

(a) the provision of fundable further education and fundable higher education by the fundable bodies;

(b) the undertaking of research among the fundable bodies;
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(c) the—
   (i) provision of such facilities; and
   (ii) the carrying on of such other activities,
   by the fundable bodies or any other person as are necessary or desirable for the purposes of or in connection with an activity specified in paragraph (a) or (b);

(d) the provision of services by the fundable bodies or any other person for the purposes of or in connection with an activity specified in paragraph (a) or (b).

11 Funding of fundable bodies

(1) The Council may make grants, loans or other payments—

   (a) to the governing body of any fundable body in respect of expenditure incurred or to be incurred by the body for the purposes of any of the activities specified in subsection (3)(a) and (b) of section 10;

   (b) to—

      (i) the governing body of any fundable body; or

      (ii) any other person,

   in respect of expenditure incurred or to be incurred by the body or the person for the purposes of any of the activities specified in subsection (3)(c) and (d) of that section.

(2) A payment made under subsection (1) may (in addition to any condition which is imposed by virtue of subsection (5) of section 8) be subject to such terms and conditions as the Council considers it appropriate to impose.

(3) Terms and conditions imposed under subsection (2) may, in particular, relate to—

   (a) the repayment (in whole or in part) of a payment in such circumstances as they may specify;

   (b) the interest payable in respect of any period during which a sum due to the Council is outstanding.

(4) But terms and conditions imposed under subsection (2) may not relate to the application by the body of any sums which were not derived from the Scottish Ministers.

(5) Before imposing terms and conditions under subsection (2), the Council must—

   (a) except where it considers that it is not expedient to do so, consult the governing body of the fundable body to which the payment is to be made; and

   (b) if it considers it appropriate to do so, consult such persons as appear to it to represent the interests of fundable bodies or any class of them.

(6) In making payments under subsection (1), the Council is to have regard to the desirability of—

   (a) encouraging fundable bodies to maintain or develop funding from other sources;

   (b) preserving any distinctive characteristics of particular fundable bodies.
The Council: functions

13 Quality of fundable further and higher education

(1) The Council is to secure that provision is made for—
(a) assessing; and
(b) enhancing,
the quality of fundable further education and fundable higher education provided by
fundable bodies.

(2) In exercising the function under subsection (1), the Council must, if it considers it
appropriate to do so, consult such persons as appear to it to represent the interests of
fundable bodies or any class of them.

14 Credit and qualification framework

(1) The Council is to promote the use by the fundable bodies of such credit and
qualification framework as it may adopt.

(1A) The Council must—
(a) have regard to any representations about any particular credit and qualification
framework, and about credit and qualification frameworks in general, made to it
by—
(i) the Scottish Ministers; or
(ii) the governing body of any fundable body; and
(b) so far as the Council considers appropriate, have regard to any representations
about those matters made to it by any other person.

(2) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (1A), a “credit and qualification framework” is a
system of evaluation relating to fundable further education and fundable higher
education (as a whole) through which programmes of learning and courses of education
may be compared and understood in relation to each other.

15 Efficiency studies

(1) The Council may secure the promotion or carrying out of studies designed to improve
economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the management or operations of any fundable
body.

(2) The governing body of a fundable body must—
(a) provide any person promoting or carrying out such studies by virtue of subsection
(1) with such information; and
(b) make available to the person for inspection such accounts and other documents,
as the person may reasonably require for the purposes of the studies.

16 Council’s right to address meetings

Where the Council is concerned about any matters relating to the financial support
which a fundable body receives (or might receive) from the Council, a member of the
Council is entitled to—
(a) attend any meeting of the governing body of the fundable body; and
(b) address the meeting on those matters.

17  **Advisory functions**

(1) The Council must provide the Scottish Ministers with such information, advice and assistance relating to the—

(a) provision and funding of fundable further education and fundable higher education; and

(b) undertaking of research at bodies which provide fundable further education or fundable higher education,
as the Scottish Ministers may reasonably require.

(2) The Council may provide the Scottish Ministers with other information and advice relating to those matters whenever it considers it appropriate to do so.

(3) Any information, advice or assistance under subsections (1) and (2) is to be provided in such manner as the Scottish Ministers may determine.

18  **Functions regarding certain property**

(1) The functions of the Scottish Ministers as respects the property to which this subsection applies are exercisable by the Council on their behalf to such extent and in such manner as the Scottish Ministers may require.

(2) Subsection (1) applies to any land or other property—

(a) which is or was used or held for the purposes of a fundable body; and

(b) in respect of which the Scottish Ministers—

(i) are entitled to any right or interest; or

(ii) would be so entitled on the occurrence of any event.

19  **Administration of certain support**

(1) After section 73 (power of Scottish Ministers to make grants to education authorities and others) of the 1980 Act there is inserted—

“73ZA  Administration of certain sums

(1) The Scottish Ministers may direct—

(a) the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council; or

(b) any other body or person,
to administer any sums applied by the Scottish Ministers for a purpose referred to in paragraph (a), (c) or (f) of section 73 of this Act.

(2) A body or person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) above shall administer those sums—

(a) in such manner and to such extent; and

(b) subject to such conditions,
as the Scottish Ministers may in the direction specify.
(3) The reference in subsection (1) above to a purpose referred to in paragraph (a), (c) or (f) of section 73 of this Act is a reference to that purpose only in so far as relating to support for persons—

(a) undertaking; or

(b) who have undertaken,
courses of education provided by fundable bodies.

(4) In subsection (3) above, “fundable bodies” shall be construed in accordance with the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 00).”.

(2) In section 73A (transfer or delegation of functions relating to student support) of that Act—

(a) in subsection (3), for the words “73(f)” there is substituted “73(a), (c) or (f)”;

(b) in subsection (6)(a)(i)—

(i) after the word “making” there is inserted “payments,”; and

(ii) for the words “73(f)” there is substituted “73(a), (c) or (f)”;

(c) after subsection (9) there is added—

“(10) The references in subsections (3) and (6)(a)(i) above to regulations under section 73(a) or (c) of this Act are references to those regulations only in so far as relating to support for persons—

(a) undertaking; or

(b) who have undertaken,
courses of education provided by fundable bodies.

(11) In subsection (10) above, “fundable bodies” shall be construed in accordance with the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 00).”.

The Council: exercise of functions

(1) In exercising its functions, the Council is to have regard to—

(a) skills needs in Scotland;

(b) issues affecting the economy of Scotland; and

(c) social and cultural issues in Scotland.

(2) In exercising its functions, the Council is to have regard to the—

(a) United Kingdom context; and

(b) international context,
in which any of the fundable bodies may carry on their activities.

(3) In exercising its functions, the Council is to have regard to the educational and related needs (including support needs) of persons who are, and the likely educational and related needs (including support needs) of persons who might wish to become, students of any of the fundable bodies.
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(4) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), “skills needs” means any requirement or desirability for skills or knowledge which, following consultation with the Scottish Ministers, appears to the Council—

(a) to exist for the time being or be likely to exist in the future; and

(b) to be capable of being addressed (wholly or partly) by the provision of fundable further education or fundable higher education.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b) and (c), “issues” means issues which, following consultation with the Scottish Ministers, appear to the Council—

(a) to exist for the time being or be likely to exist in the future; and

(b) to be capable of being addressed (wholly or partly) by the provision of fundable further education or fundable higher education.

21 Equal opportunities

(1) The Council must exercise its functions in a manner which encourages equal opportunities and in particular the observance of the equal opportunity requirements.

(2) In subsection (1), “equal opportunities” and “equal opportunity requirements” have the same meanings as in Section L2 (equal opportunities) of Part II of Schedule 5 to the Scotland Act 1998 (c.46).

22 Consultation and collaboration

(1) The Council must, in the exercise of its functions—

(a) where it considers it appropriate to do so, consult any or all of the persons referred to in subsection (4); and

(b) so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, seek to secure the collaboration with the Council of those persons.

(1A) The Council must, where it considers it appropriate to do so in the exercise of its functions, consult any body of persons which appears to it to be representative of staff or students of the fundable bodies.

(2) Any particular requirement for consultation imposed on the Council by virtue of this Act is without prejudice to subsections (1)(a) and (1A).

(3) The persons referred to in subsection (4) must provide the Council with such information as it may reasonably require for the purposes of or in connection with the exercise of any of its functions.

(4) The persons are—

(a) any local authority;

(b) the governing body of any fundable body;

(c) the governing body of any other body which provides fundable further education or fundable higher education;

(d) the Scottish Qualifications Authority;

(e) Scottish Enterprise;

(f) Highlands and Islands Enterprise;

(g) any local enterprise company;
(h) Scottish University for Industry (that is, the organisation comprised of Scottish UFI Limited and Scottish UFI Trust); and

(i) Communities Scotland (that is, the agency of the Scottish Executive known by that name).

In subsection (4)(g), “local enterprise company” means a person who is responsible, by virtue of an agreement made under section 19 of the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act 1990 (C.35), for the discharge of any functions of Scottish Enterprise or Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The Scottish Ministers may by order modify subsections (4) and (5).

The Council must, in relation to the provision of fundable further education and fundable higher education, promote collaboration between the fundable bodies.

23 General powers

(1) The Council may (subject to subsections (2) to (9)) do anything that is necessary or expedient for the purpose of or in connection with the exercise of its functions, including in particular—

(a) acquiring and disposing of land and other property;
(b) entering into contracts;
(c) investing sums not immediately required for the purpose of the discharge of its functions; and
(d) accepting gifts of money, land or other property.

(2) The Council may not borrow money.

(3) The Council is not to—

(a) give any guarantee or indemnity over or in respect of any property; or
(b) create any trust or security over or in respect of any property,

without the written consent of the Scottish Ministers.

(4) The Council is not to dispose of any property to which this subsection applies without the written consent of the Scottish Ministers.

(5) Consent, for the purposes of subsection (3) or (4), may be given—

(a) in respect of any case or class of case; and
(b) subject to such conditions as the Scottish Ministers may determine.

(6) Consent, for the purposes of subsection (4), is not required for a disposal of land which is or forms part of property to which that subsection applies if the disposal is in consequence of the compulsory acquisition (under any enactment) of the land.

(7) But the Council is to inform the Scottish Ministers of the compulsory acquisition (under any enactment) of land which is or forms part of property to which subsection (4) applies.

(8) Where property to which subsection (4) applies is disposed of, the Council is (after deduction of such expenses as appear to the Scottish Ministers to have been reasonably incurred in the disposal) to pay to the Scottish Ministers such portion of the proceeds or value of the consideration for the disposal as the Scottish Ministers may, after consultation with the Council, determine.
(9) Subsection (4) applies to any property of the Council which has been acquired, improved or maintained wholly or partly, directly or indirectly, out of—
   (a) funds provided by the Scottish Ministers under section 8 or 9; or
   (b) the proceeds of, or any consideration for, the disposal of any property so acquired, improved or maintained.

The Scottish Ministers: requirements and directions

24 Requirements as to Council’s functions
   (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order impose requirements on the Council as regards the exercise of its functions.
   (2) But requirements imposed under this section may not relate to the Council’s functions under section 7 or 17.
   (3) Requirements imposed under this section may—
       (a) be of a general or specific character; and
       (b) make different provision for different cases or classes of case,
       but may not relate to a particular fundable body.

25 Directions where financial mismanagement
   (1) The Scottish Ministers are, if it appears to them that the financial affairs of a fundable body have been or are being mismanaged, to give the Council such directions about the provision of financial support for the activities carried on by the fundable body as they consider are necessary or expedient by reason of the mismanagement.
   (2) Before giving directions under this section, the Scottish Ministers must consult the Council and the fundable body concerned.
   (3) The Council must comply with directions given to it under this section.

Fundable bodies: miscellaneous

26 Application of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002
   (1) In section 3 (persons liable to be investigated) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 (asp 11)—
       (a) in subsection (1), for the words “and 2” there is substituted “, 2 and 3”; and
       (b) after subsection (6) there is added—

        “(7) Her Majesty may by Order in Council amend Part 3 of schedule 2 so as to—
            (a) modify any entry in it,
            (b) remove any entry from it, or
            (c) add to it any entry relating to a person, or class or persons, providing fundable further education or fundable higher education (within the meaning of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 00)).
(8) An Order in Council under subsection (7) adding an entry to that Part of that
schedule relating to a person, or class of persons, whose business (whether
commercial, charitable or otherwise) includes matters other than the activities
which fundable bodies (within the meaning of that Act) generally carry on—

(a) must, as regards that person or class, provide for this Act to apply only in
relation to those activities; and

(b) may do so subject to such modifications or exceptions as may be
specified in the Order in Council.

(9) No recommendation to make an Order in Council under subsection (7)(c) is to
be made to Her Majesty unless every person to whom the Order relates has
been consulted.”.

(2) In section 24 (Orders in Council: general) of that Act, in subsection (2) after the words
“3(2)” there is inserted “or (7)”.

(3) In schedule 2 (listed authorities) of that Act, after Part 2, there is added—

“PART 3

OTHER ENTRIES AMENDABLE BY ORDER IN COUNCIL

Further and Higher Education

90 (1) Any fundable body within the meaning of the Further and Higher Education
(Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 00).

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not include the Open University (so far as it is a
fundable body).

91 The Scottish Agricultural College.”.

(4) In schedule 4 (matters which the Ombudsman must not investigate) of that Act, after
paragraph 10, there is inserted—

“10A Action taken by or on behalf of any body falling within Part 3 of schedule 2 in
the exercise of academic judgement relating to an educational or training
matter.”.

27 Inspection of accounts

(1) The Auditor General for Scotland may, at any reasonable time, inspect the accounts and
accounting records of any fundable body.

(2) But the function under subsection (1) is exercisable only in relation to accounts and
records which relate to a financial year in which expenditure to which this subsection
applies is incurred.

(3) Subsection (2) applies to expenditure which has been funded (in whole or part) by
payments made by the Council under section 11.

28 Change of name by certain bodies

In section 3 (powers of the Scottish Ministers) of the 1992 Act, for subsection (4) there is substituted—

“(4) The governing body (within the meaning of Part II of this Act) of a college of
further education may, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers, change the
name of the college or of the governing body.”.
29 Information about recorded children
A fundable body must provide a local authority with such information or advice as the
to reasonably require for the purposes of the exercise by the authority of its
functions under section 65B (provision for recorded children) of the 1980 Act.

PART 2

30 Amendment of enactments
Schedule 3 amends enactments for the purposes of and in consequence of this Act.

31 Ancillary provision
The Scottish Ministers may by order make such incidental, supplemental, consequential,
transitional, transitory or saving provision as they consider necessary or expedient for
the purposes of or in consequence of this Act.

32 Orders and regulations
(1) Any power of the Scottish Ministers to make orders or regulations under this Act is
exercisable by statutory instrument.

(2) Any such power includes power to make—
(a) such incidental, supplemental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving
provision as the Scottish Ministers consider necessary or expedient; and
(b) different provision for different purposes.

(3) A statutory instrument containing an order or regulations under this Act, apart from an
order under section 34(2), is (except where subsection (4) applies) subject to annulment
in pursuance of a resolution of the Parliament.

(4) A statutory instrument containing—
(a) regulations under section 7(2)(i);
(b) an order under section 5(7), 7(1) or (4) or 8(6) or (7); or
(c) an order under section 31 which amends an Act,
is not made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by
resolution of, the Parliament.

33 Interpretation
(1) In this Act—
“the 1980 Act” means the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (c.44);
“the 1992 Act” means the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992
(c.37);
“the Council” means the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council;
“fundable body” is to be construed in accordance with section 6(2);
“fundable further education” is to be construed in accordance with section 5(1) and (2);
“fundable higher education” is to be construed in accordance with section 5(3);
“local authority” means a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 (c.39);
“the Parliament” means the Scottish Parliament.

(2) In this Act, any reference to the governing body of a fundable body means—

(a) in the case of a fundable body conducted by a body corporate, that body corporate;

(b) in the case of a fundable body not falling within paragraph (a), the executive body which has responsibility for the management and administration of the revenue and property of the fundable body and the conduct of its affairs;

(c) in the case of any other fundable body not falling within paragraph (a) or (b) for which the Scottish Ministers by regulations or the Privy Council by order has constituted a governing body, that governing body; and

(d) in any other case, any board of governors of the fundable body or any person responsible for the management of the fundable body, whether or not formally constituted as a governing body or board of governors.

34 Short title and commencement

(1) This Act may be cited as the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005.

(2) This Act, except sections 31 to 33 and this section, comes into force on such day as the Scottish Ministers may by order appoint.

(3) Different days may be so appointed for different provisions and for different purposes.
SCHEDULE 1
(introduced by section 1)

THE SCOTTISH FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL

Status

1 (1) The Council is a body corporate.

(2) The Council—
   (a) is not a servant or agent of the Crown;
   (b) has no status, immunity or privilege of the Crown,
and its property is not to be regarded as property of, or held on behalf of, the Crown.

Membership of the Council

2 (1) The Council is to consist of the following members—
   (a) the person holding the post of chief executive;
   (b) a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers to chair meetings of the Council (the “chairing member”); and
   (c) no fewer than 11 nor more than 14 other members appointed by the Scottish Ministers.

(2) Each member (apart from the chief executive) is to be appointed for a period not exceeding 4 years.

(3) The Scottish Ministers may, on the expiry of a period of appointment of a member (apart from the chief executive), extend that appointment for a single further period not exceeding 4 years.

(4) A member (apart from the chief executive)—
   (a) may by giving notice in writing to the Scottish Ministers resign office as a member of the Council; and
   (b) otherwise, holds and vacates office in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment.

(5) If the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that a member (apart from the chief executive)—
   (a) has been absent from meetings of the Council for a period longer than 6 consecutive months without the permission of the Council; or
   (b) is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge the functions of a member,
the Scottish Ministers may by giving notice in writing to the member remove the member from office.

(6) A person is, on ceasing to be a member, eligible for reappointment.

3 (1) In appointing members, the Scottish Ministers are to have regard to the desirability of including—
   (a) persons who—
(i) have experience of, and have shown capacity in, the provision of fundable further education or fundable higher education; or
(ii) have held, and have shown the capacity in, any position carrying the responsibility for the provision of such education;

(b) persons who have experience of, and have shown capacity in industrial, commercial or financial matters or the practice of any profession; and

(c) persons who have such other skills, knowledge or experience as the Scottish Ministers consider to be relevant in relation to the exercise of the Council’s functions.

(2) In appointing members, the Scottish Ministers are also to have regard to the desirability of—

(a) including persons who are currently engaged in the provision of, or carrying responsibility for the provision of, fundable further education or fundable higher education; and

(b) the membership of the Council (taken as a whole) having experience of, and having shown capacity in, a broad range of such education.

(3) In appointing members, the Scottish Ministers are also to have regard to the desirability of including persons who—

(a) have experience, and have shown capacity, relating to research or the application of research; and

(b) are currently engaged in research or the application of research.

Disqualification from membership

A person is disqualified from appointment, and from holding office, as a member of the Council if that person is—

(a) a member of the House of Lords;

(b) a member of the House of Commons;

(c) a member of the Scottish Parliament;

(d) a member of the European Parliament; or

(e) disqualified from election as a member of the Scottish Parliament or as a member of a local authority.

Remuneration, allowances and pensions for members

(1) The Council is to pay to its members (apart from the chief executive) such remuneration as the Scottish Ministers may in each case determine.

(2) The Council is to pay to its members such allowances as the Scottish Ministers may in each case determine.

(3) The Council is, in respect of any person who is or has been a member (apart from the chief executive), to pay, or make such payments towards the provision of, such pensions, allowances and gratuities as the Scottish Ministers may in each case determine.
(4) Where a person ceases to be a member (apart from the chief executive), the Scottish Ministers may, in special circumstances, direct the Council to make to the person a payment of such amount of compensation as the Scottish Ministers may determine.

Chief executive

6 (1) The Council is to employ a chief executive.

(2) The person referred to in sub-paragraph (3) is (except where sub-paragraph (4) applies) transferred to the employment of, and becomes the first chief executive of, the Council.

(3) That person is the person who, immediately before the coming into force of this paragraph, holds (by virtue of section 59A(1) and (2)(a) of the 1992 Act) appointments as both—

(a) the chief officer of the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council; and

(b) the equivalent officer of the Scottish Further Education Funding Council.

(4) But if—

(a) there is no person holding both of those appointments immediately before coming into force of this paragraph; or

(b) the person holding both of those appointments immediately before the coming into force of this paragraph is unwilling, unable or unfit to be transferred to the employment of the Council,

the Scottish Ministers are to make the first appointment of the chief executive of the Council on such terms and conditions as the Scottish Ministers may determine.

(5) Each subsequent chief executive is, with the approval of the Scottish Ministers, to be appointed by the Council on such terms and conditions as the Council may determine, with such approval, determine.

Other staff

7 (1) All staff employed, immediately before the coming into force of this paragraph, by—

(a) the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council;

(b) the Scottish Further Education Funding Council; and

(c) those Councils jointly,

are transferred to the employment of the Council.

(2) The Council may (subject to any directions given under sub-paragraph (3)) appoint such other employees on such terms and conditions as the Council may determine.

(3) The Scottish Ministers may give directions to the Council as regards the appointment of employees under sub-paragraph (2) and as regards terms and conditions of their employment.

Continuity of employment etc.

8 (1) The contract of employment of a person transferred by virtue of paragraph 6(2) or 7(1)—

(a) is not terminated by the transfer; and
(b) has effect from the date of transfer as if originally made between the person and the Council.

(2) Without prejudice to sub-paragraph (1), where a person is transferred to the employment of the Council by virtue of paragraph 6(2) or 7(1)—

(a) all the rights, powers, duties and liabilities of the Scottish Further Education Funding Council or the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council under or in connection with the person’s contract of employment are transferred to the Council on the date of transfer; and

(b) anything done before that date by or in relation to the Scottish Further Education Finding Council or the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council in respect of the person or that contract is to be treated from that date as having been done by or in relation to the Council.

(3) Paragraphs 6(2) and 7(1) and sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) of this paragraph do not affect any right of any person to terminate the person’s contract of employment if the terms and conditions of employment are changed substantially to the detriment of the person; but such a change is not to be taken to have occurred by reason only that the identity of the person’s employer changes by virtue of those provisions.

Transfer of property and liabilities

9 (1) All property (including rights) and liabilities, subsisting immediately before the coming into force of this paragraph, of—

(a) the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council; and

(b) the Scottish Further Education Funding Council,

are transferred to, and vest in, the Council.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) has effect in relation to property and liabilities to which it applies despite any provision (of whatever nature) which would otherwise prevent, penalise or restrict the transfer of the property or liabilities.

Proceedings of the Council

10 (1) The Council may regulate its own procedure (including any quorum).

(2) The validity of any proceedings of the Council is not affected by a vacancy in membership nor by any defect in the appointment of a member.

Committees

11 (1) The Council must establish a committee (a “research committee”) for the purposes of advising the Council on matters concerning research.

(2) The Council is to appoint one of its members to chair meetings of the research committee.

(3) In appointing members of the research committee, the Council is to have regard to the desirability of including persons who—

(a) have experience, and have shown capacity, relating to research or the application of research; and

(b) are currently engaged in research or the application of research.
12 The Council may establish other committees for any purposes relating to its functions.

13 (1) The Council is to—
   (a) subject to paragraph 11(2) and (3), determine the composition of its committees;
   (b) determine the terms and conditions of committee membership; and
   (c) determine the procedure (including any quorum) of its committees.

   (2) Any of the committees of the Council may include persons who are not members of the Council.

   (3) The Council is to pay to the members of its committees (whether or not they are also members of the Council) such allowances as the Scottish Ministers may determine.

   (4) The Council is to keep under review the structure of its committees and the scope of the activities of each.

Delegation of functions

14 (1) The Council may authorise—
   (a) the chief executive;
   (b) the chairing member; or
   (c) any of its committees,
   to exercise such of its functions (to such extent) as it may determine.

   (2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not affect the responsibility of the Council for the exercise of its functions.

Participation of Scottish Ministers at meetings

15 Any representative of the Scottish Ministers is entitled to participate in any deliberations (but not in decisions) at meetings of the Council or of any committee of the Council.

Accounts

16 (1) The Council must—
   (a) keep proper accounts and accounting records;
   (b) prepare in respect of each financial year a statement of accounts; and
   (c) send the statement of accounts to the Scottish Ministers,
   in accordance with such directions as the Scottish Ministers may give.

   (2) The Scottish Ministers must send the statement of accounts to the Auditor General for Scotland for auditing.

Reports and information

17 (1) As soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, the Council must prepare a report on its activities during that year and must—
   (a) send a copy of the report to the Scottish Ministers; and
   (b) publish the report,
in accordance with such directions as the Scottish Ministers may give.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must lay a copy of the report before the Parliament.

(3) The Council must provide the Scottish Ministers with such other information (including information in the form of a document) relating to the exercise of its functions as the Scottish Ministers may reasonably require.

SCHEDULE 2
(introduced by section 6)
FUNDABLE BODIES

Institutions formerly eligible for funding by the Scottish Further Education Funding Council

Aberdeen College of Further Education
Angus College of Further Education
Anniesland College
Ayr College
Banff and Buchan College of Further Education
The Barony College
Borders College
Cardonald College
Central College of Commerce
Clackmannan College of Further Education
Clydebank College
Coatbridge College
Cumbernauld College
Dumfries and Galloway College
Dundee College
Edinburgh’s Telford College
Elmwood College
Falkirk College of Further and Higher Education
Fife College of Further and Higher Education
Glasgow College of Building and Printing
Glasgow College of Food Technology
Glasgow College of Nautical Science
Glasgow Metropolitan College
Glenrothes College
Inverness College
James Watt College of Further and Higher Education
Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Bill
Schedule 2—Fundable bodies

Jewel and Esk Valley College
John Wheatley College
Kilmarnock College
Langside College
Lauder College
Lews Castle College
Moray College
Motherwell College
Newbattle Abbey College
North Glasgow College
The North Highland College
Oatridge Agricultural College
Orkney College
Perth College
Reid Kerr College
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
Shetland College
South Lanarkshire College
Stevenson College Edinburgh
Stow College
West Lothian College

Institutions formerly eligible for funding by the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council

Bell College of Technology
Edinburgh College of Art
Glasgow Caledonian University
Glasgow School of Art
Heriot-Watt University
Napier University
The Open University (so far as carrying on activities in or as regards Scotland)
Queen Margaret University College
The Robert Gordon University
Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama
UHI Millennium Institute
University of Aberdeen
University of Abertay Dundee
University of Dundee
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of Paisley
University of St. Andrews
University of Stirling
University of Strathclyde

SCHEDULE 3
(introduced by section 30)

AMENDMENT OF ENACTMENTS

Superannuation Act 1972 (c.11)

1 In the Superannuation Act 1972, in Schedule 1 (kinds of employment, etc. referred to in section 1) the entries relating to—
   (a) the Scottish Further Education Funding Council;
   (b) the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council; and
   (c) a body corporate created by virtue of section 59A(2)(c) of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992,
are repealed.

House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (c.24)

2 In the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975, in Part III of Schedule 1 (disqualifying offices) the entries relating to—
   (a) the Scottish Further Education Funding Council; and
   (b) the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council,
are repealed.

Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c.65)

3 In the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, section 23B is repealed.

Race Relations Act 1976 (c.74)

4 In the Race Relations Act 1976—
   (a) section 18B; and
   (b) in Schedule 1A (bodies and other persons subject to general statutory duty), the entries relating to—
      (i) the Scottish Further Education Funding Council; and
      (ii) the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council,
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are repealed.

Education Reform Act 1988 (c.40)

5 In section 235 (general interpretation) of the Education Reform Act 1988, in subsection (5A), for the words “Scottish Higher Education Funding Council” there is substituted “Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council”.

Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 (c.37)

6 (1) In the 1992 Act—

(a) in section 3 (powers of Scottish Ministers), in subsection (1), the words from “shall” to “he” are repealed;

(b) in section 12 (boards of management)—

(i) in subsection (1), for the words from “of” in the second place where it occurs to the end there is substituted “of managing and conducting their college.”; and

(ii) in subsection (3), the words “over school age” are repealed;

(c) in section 44 (designation of institutions), in subsection (1), for the words from “by” in the first place where it occurs to the end there is substituted “, for the purposes of this Part of this Act, by order designate any institution providing higher education (whether or not it also provides education of any other kind or carries on any other activities).”; and

(d) in section 61 (interpretation), after the words “1980;” in the second place where they occur there is inserted—

“‘the Council’ means the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council;”.

(2) In that Act—

(a) section 1(1) and (2) and (4) to (6);

(b) sections 4, 7 to 10, 22, 23, 37, 39 to 43, 50, 51, 53, 54 and 59A;

(c) Schedules 1 and 7; and

(d) paragraphs 4(3) and 5(3) of Schedule 9,

are repealed.

Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 (c.30)

7 In the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998—

(a) section 37 (joint exercise of functions of funding council in Scotland); and

(b) in paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 (minor and consequential amendments), the entry relating to a body corporate created by virtue of section 59A(2)(c) of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992,

are repealed.
Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 1)

8 In the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000, in paragraph 11 of schedule 4 (modification of enactments), sub-paragraphs (2) and (4) are repealed.

Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 7)

9 In the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, in schedule 3 (devolved public bodies)—
   (a) after the entry relating to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency there is inserted—
      “The Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council”; and
   (b) the entries relating to—
      (i) the Scottish Further Education Funding Council; and
      (ii) the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council,
   are repealed.

Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support) (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 6)

9A In the Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support) (Scotland) Act 2001, in paragraph (a) of the definition of “publicly funded institution” in subsection (5) of section 1 (the graduate endowment), for the words “4 or 40 of the 1992 Act” there is substituted “11 of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 00)”.

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 (asp 11)

10 In the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002, in schedule 2 (listed authorities)—
   (a) after paragraph 40 there is inserted—
      “40A The Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council.”; and
   (b) paragraphs 41 and 43 are repealed.

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 13)

11 In the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, in schedule 1 (Scottish public authorities)—
   (a) in paragraph 49, for the words “Scottish Higher Education Funding Council” there is substituted “Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council”;
   (b) after paragraph 85 there is inserted—
      “85A The Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council.”; and
   (c) paragraphs 86 and 87 are repealed.

Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 4)

12 In the Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003, in schedule 2 (specified authorities)—
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(a) after the entry relating to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency there is inserted—

“Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council”; and

(b) the entries relating to the—

(i) Scottish Further Education Funding Council; and

(ii) Scottish Higher Education Funding Council,

are repealed.

The Scottish Further Education Funding Council (Establishment) (Scotland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/2667)

10 The Scottish Further Education Funding Council (Establishment) (Scotland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/2667) is revoked.
Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Bill  
[AS AMENDED AT STAGE 2]

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision establishing the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council and provision as to its functions; to make provision as to support for further and higher education; to make provision relating to bodies which provide further and higher education; and for connected purposes.

Introduced by: Mr Jim Wallace  
On: 30 September 2004  
Bill type: Executive Bill