

3 October 2012

Mr Stewart Maxwell
Convener
Education and Culture Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Ref: BK/Parliament

Dear Mr Maxwell

Scotland's Colleges Evidence to the Education and Culture Committee on the Draft Budget 2013/14 – Tuesday 2 October 2012

Following the oral evidence session to the Education and Culture Committee by Liz McIntyre, Principal at Borders College on behalf of *Scotland's Colleges*, I write to clarify the query raised during the session on the student headcount figure in **Table 5 – Student Numbers** for **2008-09** of the written evidence submission which was stated as 384,986. I can confirm that the headcount figure stated in **2008/9** is incorrect and should have been **374,986**.

Revised text for the evidence submission paper is presented below:

2. Summary

2.1 Facts and Figures:

- Student numbers fell by **70,000** to just over 300,000 between 2008/9 and 2010/11 (the most recent figures available), however **full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers remained constant at around 126,000** (Table 5).

4. Context of Budgets Over Time

4.4 Student Numbers

The latest figures available from the SFC are for 2010/11:

- Student numbers have fallen by approximately **70,000** on the previous two years, and that trend is likely to have continued for 2011/12 and 2012/13, while the FTE has remained relatively static at 126,000.

Table 5 – Student Numbers	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Headcount ¹	374,986	347,336	305,969
FTEs ²	126,285	127,943	126,939

¹ Data from SFC Performance Indicators 2011.

² SFC Infact Database.

I would like to apologise to the members of the Education and Culture Committee and the Scottish Funding Council on behalf of *Scotland's Colleges* for the typing error and subsequently the incorrect figure being used in an article in *The Herald – College student numbers down by 80,000* on Tuesday 2 October 2012.

Yours sincerely

Brian Keegan
Chair of *Scotland's Colleges*

cc: Mark Batho, Chief Executive, Scottish Funding Council
Liz McIntyre, Principal, Borders College
John Henderson, Chief Executive, *Scotland's Colleges*