The Scottish Parliament’s Education and Culture Committee is seeking written evidence on the general principles of the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Bill. A copy of the Bill and accompanying Policy Memorandum and Explanatory Notes can be found at: Post-16 Education (Scotland) Bill

The Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 27 November 2012 by Michael Russell, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.

Aims of the Bill

The Policy Memorandum states that the Bill will introduce provisions covering six areas—

- **University governance**: to allow Ministers, when providing funding to the SFC, to impose conditions relating to the need for higher education institutions to adhere to good practice in governance.

- **Widening access**: to allow Ministers, when providing funding to the SFC, to impose conditions relating to access to higher education institutions for under-represented socio-economic groups.

- **Tuition fees cap**: to allow Ministers:
  - to set an upper limit on the level of higher education tuition fees which post-16 education bodies can charge UK students and certain others who are not entitled to be charged tuition fees at the level set by the Scottish Government; and
  - when providing funding to the SFC, to impose conditions with a view to ensuring that post-16 education bodies adhere to such an upper limit.

- **College regionalisation**:
  - to provide for two types of incorporated colleges with different duties, composition and appointment provisions, depending on whether they are in single-college or multi-college regions;
  - to establish new regional strategic bodies for colleges in multi-college regions to support a regional approach to the planning and funding of college provision; and
  - to introduce Ministerial powers to remove chairs and other members of incorporated colleges and regional boards for reasons of failure (in addition to mismanagement).
- **Review of fundable further and higher education**: to allow the SFC to review the provision of fundable further and higher education with a view to ensuring that such education is being provided by post-16 education bodies in a coherent manner.

- **Data sharing**: to allow Ministers to make secondary legislation to impose a legal duty on relevant bodies to share data with Skills Development Scotland on all young people between the ages of 16 and 24 moving through the learning system to identify those who have disengaged with, or may be at risk of, disengaging with, learning or training.

The Education and Culture Committee would welcome your views on any or all of these provisions, and their possible impact. The Committee would also welcome views on relevant post-16 education issues that are not currently included in the bill, but which you consider could be included.

The Committee expects to take oral evidence in late January and throughout February, before reporting on the Bill’s general principles in March.

**How to submit written evidence**

Written evidence must be submitted by no later than 18 January 2013.

Before making a submission, please read the Parliament’s policy on treatment of written evidence by subject and mandatory committees.

Where possible, written submissions should be—

- submitted electronically in word format to: ec.committee@scottish.parliament.uk
- limited to around 4 sides of A4
- set out in numbered paragraphs.

Where the submission refers to existing published material, it is preferable to provide hyperlinks or full citations (rather than extensive extracts). The Committee welcomes written evidence in English, Gaelic or any other language.

Hard copy written submissions should be sent to:

Education and Culture Committee,
Room T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP