Dear Keith,

Thank you for appearing before the Committee on Wednesday in relation to the Enterprise and Skills Review. On a number of occasions during the course of your session Committee members sought to test the evidence base for the decision taken at ministerial level during Phase 1 to abolish the Scottish Funding Council board and other boards covered by the review.

The Committee has agreed that it wishes to scrutinise the evidence base for this decision further. To this end, your letter yesterday was timely in pointing the Committee to a number of submissions to the review including those that focus on enterprise bodies. The Committee would ask that you provide further detail on those organisations or individuals that specifically suggested abolishing the board of the Scottish Funding Council and the creation of a new overarching board.

The Committee has decided that if the Scottish Government is not in a position to provide it with sufficient evidence of the basis for this decision then it is minded to consider undertaking its own inquiry work to assess the evidence.

I should be very grateful for a response to this letter by Friday 23rd December to enable the Committee to consider your response early in the New Year.

Once the Official Report of Wednesday’s meeting is available the Clerk to the Committee will contact your officials to detail the other pieces of information we require that you offered during your session.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES DORNAN MSP
CONVENER