Dear James,

I am writing to thank your organisation for providing the Committee with a submission on its pre-budget scrutiny of Skills Development Scotland. The Committee was particularly interested in what you had to say about the SDS engaging at a local level and appreciates you taking the time to set out your perspective.

You submission was referred to on a number of occasions during the Committee’s evidence session with the SDS. The Official Report of the meeting is linked and you will be able to see that SDS were fairly robust in their rebuttal of some of your points. I understand the Clerk has already discussed this with you to ensure you were cited on this matter soon after the evidence session took place.

The Committee agreed that I write to you to offer the opportunity to you to respond to some of SDS’s Comments. For ease of reference I include a list of the times the Chamber was mentioned during the session in the Annexe to this letter.

Please note that the SDS also suggested that it would seek to arrange a meeting with you to discuss these matters. The Committee would also be interested to learn of any outcomes from this meeting.

For reference, the Committee has also written to SDS on a number of areas where they offered supplementary evidence. In this letter the Committee requests that SDS takes more time to reflect on the local issues raised in evidence to the Committee, including from SLAED and CBI. This letter serves to highlight to the SDS that some of the issues you raised in evidence were not isolated comments.
I would be grateful for a response to the SDS’ remarks by Wednesday 30 November 2016. In the meantime, Ned Sharratt, one of the Clerks to the Committee, would be happy to discuss the contents of this letter or the evidence session itself with you and is on 0131 348 5204.

Yours sincerely

JAMES DORNAN MSP
CONVENER
ANNEXE

Mentions of the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce
During the Committee Meeting of 9 November 2016

- Undertaking to meet with AGCC
  Col 19

- Achieving good governance
  Col 20

- Extent to which the SDS recognises the views of the AGCC
  Col 23

- Staff time spent in local regions.
  Col 24

- KPIs
  Col 31

- Partnership working
  Cols 33/34