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Claire Baker MSP  
Convener of Economy and Fair Work  
Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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4 July 2022

Dear Convener,

I am writing to advise the Economy and Fair Work Committee that the Scottish Government has today published a document setting out in more detail the [Scope and Approach that we plan to take to the development of the Purpose and Principles for Post School Education, Research and Skills \("Purpose and Principles"\)](#). I have also written to the Convener of the Education, Children and Young People Committee to advise them of the publication.

The development of the Purpose and Principles will fulfil the Scottish Government's commitment to publish a statement of strategic intent for the system following the Scottish Funding Council's recommendations in its review "[Coherence and Sustainability: A Review of Tertiary Education and Research](#)".

In developing the Scope and Approach officials have engaged with a range of stakeholders to seek their views including input from NUS, Young Scot, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Funding Council, STUC, COSLA, Universities Scotland and Colleges Scotland.

The development of the Purpose and Principles represents the start of a wider process of change to ensure that our tertiary education and skills system is fit for the future. This connects to the other aspects of Education Reform that are underway including the National Discussion on Education announced by the Cabinet Secretary on 14 June and the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment being led by Professor Louise Hayward.

The development of the Purpose and Principles is an opportunity to stimulate debate and discussion on all aspects of our education, skills and research system and to start to shift cultural expectations and challenge perceptions of what this whole eco-system can deliver.

This presents a bold and exciting opportunity to align the whole system behind a shared purpose and set of principles, articulating clearly defined roles and responsibilities which

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provides a clear strategic framework for decision making based on the outcomes we want to see.

I will be happy to discuss the development of this work with you further and I would welcome the Committee's views on this work once we return from recess.

Yours sincerely



**JAMIE HEPBURN**

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