



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

Graeme Dey MSP
Minister for Further and Higher Education; and
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Scottish Government

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Via E-mail

Dear Minister,

As you will be aware, in its [college regionalisation report](#), the Committee called on college management and unions to urgently set out how they were going to respond to the [Strathesk Report](#) to ensure that improvements are put in place to avoid future disputes.

The Committee has now received responses from [College Employers Scotland](#), [EIS-FELA](#), [UNISON](#) and the [Glasgow Colleges Regional Board](#).

At its meeting on [15 November 2023](#), the Committee considered these responses and agreed to write to you to ask for your comments on the issues highlighted within them. In particular, the Committee would be keen for your comments on the issues raised about—

- information-sharing
- the need for culture change
- the role of the Scottish Funding Council
- concerns regarding an independent chair and whether the process that has been set up is independent given that it is run by Colleges Scotland and College Employers Scotland
- the commitment to national bargaining
- the future of the strategic partnership forum

- the statement from unions that their negotiators are trained but what they need is time to facilitate their learning and plan for meetings/negotiations rather than negotiation training

The Committee would appreciate a response by **Thursday 21 December 2023**.

Yours sincerely

Sue Webber MSP
Convener