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Sue Webber MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

December 2023

Dear Convener,

FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Further to my letter of 20 December I am writing to provide further clarification on the final position on the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) in Academic Year 2024/25.

As made clear by the Deputy First Minister's budget statement on 19 December 2023, the Scottish Government continues to face unprecedented budget pressures. Regrettably, as a result, this means that there is no provision for FWDF in the Scottish Government budget for 2024/25. Please accept my apologies that I did not clarify this in my earlier letter.

As previously noted, I recognise that colleges and the many businesses of all sizes who benefit from FWDF each year will be disappointed by the withdrawal of this funding. However, with no unallocated funding or spare reserves, very hard choices have had to be made to prioritise spending to support those who need most help and manage the nation's budget.

I would be happy to answer any queries the Committee may have in relation to this issue.

GRAEME DEY MSP
Minister for Higher Education, Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

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