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Douglas Ross MSP
Convener
Education, Children & Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

23 June 2025

Dear Convener,

As agreed during my appearance at the Education, Children & Young People Committee, on 28 May 2025, I am sharing a written update on the Scottish Government's understanding of the timescales for the transformation work being undertaken by the University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI). I note that the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of UHI attended committee on the 18th June, and any information shared here should be taken in the context of the detail that Ms Nairn shared with the Committee at that appearance.

It is important to note, as I mentioned in Committee, that this work is being undertaken by the university and to their own timescale. I have shared with UHI the Scottish Government's clear expectation for meaningful and timely engagement with academic partners and other stakeholders as part of this work.

UHI undertook a public engagement on their Outline Business Case with staff, students and stakeholders. This engagement ran from 10 March to 2 May 2025.

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) have informed me that an Academic Partner event was held during May, and a series of meetings with local authorities and staff focus groups will be held over the summer. A trade union engagement and consultation strategy is also being developed.

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The SFC are confident that the Target Operating Model remains on track and that they still expect to receive the formal submission of the Final Business Case by the end of 2025.

Yours sincerely



GRAEME DEY MSP

Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

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