



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Sue Webber MSP  
Convener  
Education, Children and Young People  
Committee

**Public Audit Committee**  
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By email only

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Dear Sue

### **Planning for skills**

The Public Audit Committee took evidence from the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) on the [Planning for Skills section 23 report](#) at its meeting on [10 February 2022](#). It then held a further evidence session with the Director-General Education and Justice on [10 March 2022](#).

The Committee is firmly of the view that Scotland's skills system needs to operate efficiently and effectively for individuals and employers, to maximise value to the economy. We are therefore concerned to see the AGS report that, while the Scottish Government recognises workforce skills are central to the economy, it has not provided the leadership needed to achieve the benefits. We therefore support the AGS's view that the Scottish Government must take urgent action to realise its ambition for skills alignment.

At its meeting on 29 September 2022, the Committee agreed to close its scrutiny of the report, and in doing so write your Committee to highlight issues raised during its scrutiny of the report.

Shared Outcomes Framework

In his report, the AGS recommended that the Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) should agree how they will work together to deliver shared outcomes for skills. During the Committee's scrutiny of the report, the Scottish Government published a Shared Outcomes Framework for the work of SDS and the SFC.

The Public Audit Committee [wrote to the Minister](#) on 24 March 2022, expressing its concerns relating to the quality and readability of the framework. This included a concern over the bureaucratic language used throughout the document, making it largely inaccessible to members of the public with an interest in the subject. The Committee requested that the Scottish Government provided an Executive Summary to capture in plain English, what this framework sets out to achieve and how it will seek to do it, alongside its partners and by when. A [copy of the Shared Outcomes Framework Executive Summary](#) was provided to the Committee on 28 June 2022.

In his letter of 28 June 2022, the Minister also confirms that the Scottish Government, SDS and the SFC will continue to be accountable to Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament for the delivery of the Shared Outcomes Framework. We suggest that your Committee may wish to give consideration to the progress and delivery of the Shared Outcomes Framework as part of your ongoing work programme.

#### Independent review of the skills delivery landscape

As you are aware, on [31 August 2022](#), the Minister wrote to advise both our Committees, along with the Economy and Fair Work Committee, his intention to initiate an independent review of the skills delivery landscape. Again, the Committee suggests that your Committee may also wish to give consideration to monitoring the progress and the outcomes of this review.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Leonard MSP**  
**Convener**