



Richard Leonard MSP  
**Convener Public Audit Committee**

[publicaudit.committee@Parliament.Scot](mailto:publicaudit.committee@Parliament.Scot)

14 March 2024

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter of 5th March following on from the opportunity to appear before you on 11th January to discuss issues in relation to Scotland's colleges. It was helpful to engage with the Committee on the issues raised within the Audit Scotland briefing paper. I value very highly the contribution that our Colleges make, whilst also recognising the need for wider reform.

Your letter asks that the proposed Ministerial update on reform of the post-school education and skills system be shared with the Public Audit Committee. We will ensure that the Committee is copied into the relevant correspondence.

You also ask that the Ministerial update include information on how the Scottish Government plans to work with its partners, employers and trade unions to determine the types and level of courses required to match the demand for skills in Scotland. I agree with the need to ensure that a range of stakeholders, at both national and local levels, are involved in discussions around demand. Whilst it will be for the Minister to determine the contents of his update, the Scottish Government is already taking forward work in this area as part of its commitment to take the lead on national skills planning to support our future labour market needs.

I note the Committee's request to the Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council about the need for urgency and clarity on reform. Please be assured that the Scottish Government and its delivery partners share this ambition and are committed to working together to provide greater clarity to colleges on any proposed changes.

We will continue to liaise with the Committee on reform of the post-school education and skills system and would be happy to provide any additional information required.

Yours sincerely,

**NEIL RENNICK**

Director-General Education and Justice,  
Scottish Government

