



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Public Audit Committee

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

3 December 2024

Dear Minister

Scotland's colleges 2024

The Public Audit Committee heard evidence from the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) on the [above briefing](#) at its [meeting on 3 October 2024](#). The Committee also heard evidence from Scottish Government officials and the Scottish Funding Council on the briefing at its [meeting on 28 November 2024](#). Following this evidence session, the Committee agreed to write to you to seek clarity on the following issues.

The AGS's briefing states that "reform of the post-school landscape has not yet been implemented, causing continuing uncertainty and making it more difficult for colleges to plan effectively". In his briefing, the AGS recommends that—

"The Scottish Government should increase the pace of reform that impacts on the college sector, by ensuring all groups involved are clear on what is expected of them and by when. By the end of 2024, the Scottish Government should set out detailed and timely milestones to deliver the programmes of work to reform the post-school skills sector."

The Committee seeks a response from you to the Auditor General for Scotland's recommendation that "By the end of 2024, the Scottish Government should set out detailed and timely milestones to deliver the programmes of work to reform the post-school skills sector".

During the evidence session on 28 November 2024, the Committee explored the reasons for the slow pace of change, particularly in relation to the post-school landscape and regional arrangements, with Scottish Government officials. The Committee understands that consultations in these areas have now concluded and a ministerial decision on the next steps is awaited.

The Committee requests an update on the timescales on when you will announce to Parliament, the outcome of the consultations on [Post-School Education and Skills Reform](#) and the [Review of the Regional Strategic Bodies within the Glasgow and Lanarkshire College Region](#).


Contact: Public Audit Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.
Email publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

During the same evidence session, Scottish Government officials confirmed that working groups are being set up in respect of the reform of apprenticeships and qualifications. The Committee also heard of the Scottish Government's commitment to lead a national approach to skills planning and to improve careers support.

The Committee seeks an update on the progress of these individual areas of work along with details of the expected timescales for each.

The Committee would welcome a response by **Tuesday 7 January 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Leonard". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Richard Leonard MSP

Convener