



E: dgej@gov.scot

Richard Leonard MSP
Convenor,
Public Audit Committee

By email: publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot

THE 2022/23 AUDIT OF FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE

22 August 2025

Dear Convenor

Thank you for your letter of 11 July 2025 regarding Forth Valley College.

I am aware that SFC has engaged with the Forth Valley College regarding the issues identified in the Audit Scotland report as well as lessons learned, including sharing these across the sector to ensure any lessons learned have maximum impact. I understand that the Committee has also written to SFC on this matter and they will reply separately.

Through the College Tripartite Alignment Group, chaired by the Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans, the Scottish Government, the Scottish Funding Council and Colleges Scotland are working collaboratively to identify and implement workable flexibilities that will help ease colleges' financial pressures while ensuring accountability for public funds. Work is ongoing across a number of areas, such as diversification of income into the sector and strategies to learn from best practice in order to increase non-public forms of funding in the sector. In all case, this should include consideration of any additional risks and oversight associated with alternative sources of funding.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Forth Valley College to meet with the Chair, Principal and other senior staff to learn more about their work to provide education and training relevant to the needs of students and the economy in the region, with over 96% of students progressing on to positive destinations.

I hope the Committee finds this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

NEIL RENNICK

Director-General Education and Justice,
Scottish Government

