

05 March 2026

Richard Leonard MSP
Convener
Public Audit Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Convener

In 2025, I published reports on the annual audits of three of Scotland's Colleges under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. The reports were on the 2022/23 audit of Forth Valley College, the 2022/23 audit of Lews Castle College and the 2023/24 audit of UHI Perth.

I am writing to confirm that I do not intend to publish follow up reports on Forth Valley College or UHI Perth this year following our review of the 2024/25 audited accounts and Annual Audit Reports (AAR).

Our review of the 2024/25 audited accounts and AAR for Forth Valley College did not raise any further concerns in relation to the issues raised in the Section 22 report, which focused on procurement breaches in relation to a college-run project. It is our view that the college has now implemented all recommendations made in the lessons learned report it produced following the breaches.

My Section 22 report on UHI Perth focussed on the college's failure to set a budget for 2023/24. It also referred to financial and governance issues that had occurred in the early part of 2024/25 after a delay in the completion of the 2023/24 accounts. We found no further issues of concern during our review of the 2024/25 audited accounts and AAR that require further reporting at this point. I will continue to closely monitor the findings of future audits and will bring forward further statutory reports as I judge necessary.

Lews Castle College is now part of the merged UHI North West and Hebrides college. The 2023/24 accounts and associated audit opinion were signed on 3 March 2026. I will write to you separately with an update once we have reviewed the accounts and AAR.

Our review of the 2024/25 audited accounts and AARs for the other colleges did not identify significant issues or matters arising that require further reporting under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. We have identified that some colleges are facing high levels of financial risk and we intend to report on these issues in our Scotland's Colleges 2026 report that will be published in September 2026.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Boyle
Auditor General for Scotland