3 October 2012

Mr Stewart Maxwell
Convener
Education and Culture Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Maxwell

Scotland’s Colleges Evidence to the Education and Culture Committee on the Draft Budget 2013/14 – Tuesday 2 October 2012

Following the oral evidence session to the Education and Culture Committee by Liz McIntyre, Principal at Borders College on behalf of Scotland’s Colleges, I write to clarify the query raised during the session on the student headcount figure in Table 5 – Student Numbers for 2008-09 of the written evidence submission which was stated as 384,986. I can confirm that the headcount figure stated in 2008/9 is incorrect and should have been 374,986.

Revised text for the evidence submission paper is presented below:

2. Summary

2.1 Facts and Figures:

- Student numbers fell by 70,000 to just over 300,000 between 2008/9 and 2010/11 (the most recent figures available), however full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers remained constant at around 126,000 (Table 5).

4. Context of Budgets Over Time

4.4 Student Numbers

The latest figures available from the SFC are for 2010/11:

- Student numbers have fallen by approximately 70,000 on the previous two years, and that trend is likely to have continued for 2011/12 and 2012/13, while the FTE has remained relatively static at 126,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5 – Student Numbers</th>
<th>2008/9</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcount</td>
<td>374,986</td>
<td>347,336</td>
<td>305,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTEs</td>
<td>126,285</td>
<td>127,943</td>
<td>126,939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Data from SFC Performance Indicators 2011.
2 SFC InFact Database.
I would like to apologise to the members of the Education and Culture Committee and the Scottish Funding Council on behalf of Scotland's Colleges for the typing error and subsequently the incorrect figure being used in an article in The Herald – College student numbers down by 80,000 on Tuesday 2 October 2012.

Yours sincerely

Brian Keegan  
Chair of Scotland's Colleges

cc: Mark Batho, Chief Executive, Scottish Funding Council  
    Liz McIntyre, Principal, Borders College  
    John Henderson, Chief Executive, Scotland's Colleges