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FAO
Glasgow & Lanarkshire Colleges
Chairs and Principals
(by email)

16 May 2024

Dear College Chairs and Principals,

REFORM OF REGIONAL STRATEGIC BODIES – GLASGOW AND LANARKSHIRE COLLEGE REGIONS

I am writing to you to provide an update following reviews and reports on reform of Regional Strategic Bodies within the Glasgow and Lanarkshire college regions.

As set out in the Purpose and Principles publications, I have been clear on the priority I place on reform of our lifelong education and skills system.

I am now in a position to provide an update on plans to progress with reform of Regional Strategic Bodies within the Glasgow and Lanarkshire college regions, and I have announced this decision in Parliament this afternoon.

The first steps in this process will begin with the launch of a consultation, across the sector and beyond, on plans to dissolve the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board and The Lanarkshire Board and to enable new collaborative arrangements.

In reaching this decision, we have been clear that any changes to existing structures and processes will not weaken oversight or accountability of the Glasgow and Lanarkshire colleges, nor should it weaken regional planning, provision and collaboration. Therefore, we will listen to the feedback from the consultation, and we will consider this as we work with the SFC to reform Regional Strategic Bodies within both the Glasgow and Lanarkshire college regions.

It is important to highlight that change of this magnitude will not happen overnight and we recognise the importance of working with the college sector, as well as stakeholders, to get this right.

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This consultation will go live in the coming weeks and will run for 12 weeks, and a full analysis of responses will be published in due course.

In closing, I want to reiterate to you that I recognise the important role that Scotland's colleges and its workforce make to society, to economic growth and most importantly to improving the life chances of students across Scotland.

And I look forward to working with you as we progress with reform to ensure the best outcomes for learners including developing learner offers that enhance learner's potential in conjunction with understanding of regional and local employer needs.

I hope you find this update helpful, and I will welcome your input to the consultation.

Yours sincerely



GRAEME DEY MSP

Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

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