



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy and Fair Work Committee

Ruby Gibson
National Officer for Scotland
PCS Union

7 May 2025

Dear Ruby,

Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for your letter of 16 April regarding the scrutiny of the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill. I understand you have also written to the Convener of the Education, Children and Young People Committee (ECYP).

As you are aware, the ECYP Committee has been designated as the lead committee to scrutinise the Bill at Stage 1. While the Economy and Fair Work Committee does not have a formal scrutiny role in relation to the Bill, we are, of course, closely interested in the broader skills and training landscape and its impact on Scotland's economy.

For that reason, we agreed to hold a small number of evidence sessions to complement the work of the lead committee, rather than duplicate it. In doing so, both committees liaised to ensure that our respective sessions were aligned and that the ECYP Committee would hear directly from trade union representatives.

It would be incorrect to say that no trade unions were invited to provide evidence. Invitations—including to PCS—were issued in early March. I understand that the invitation to PCS may initially have been overlooked but has now been responded to.

I want to take this opportunity to emphasise how much the Economy and Fair Work Committee members values the input of trade unions. As Convener, I am personally committed to ensuring that the committee engages with unions as often as possible—whether during our inquiries, through formal evidence sessions, or when we undertake committee visits across the country. The insight unions provide is essential in shaping informed and fair recommendations.

I am very keen to continue engaging with PCS and other unions on all areas of our work. I would strongly encourage all trade unions to respond to our calls for evidence and feel free to raise any relevant issues with the committee at any time.

Contact: Economy and Fair Work Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email: economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

Thank you again for the engagement PCS has shown with Parliamentary committees and if you wish to discuss any matters relating to the work of the Economy and Fair Work Committee at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Col Smyth', written in a cursive style.

Colin Smyth MSP
Convener