

Dear Members,

I am writing to you as lead investigator on the investigation commissioned by the Scottish Funding Council into the factors and circumstances which caused the financial challenges currently faced by Dundee University.

This letter aims to appraise you of the planned approach to the investigation and to outline the timeline and activities related to the production of the final report.

Planned Approach

The forensic financial investigation team, headed by James Aston of BDO, are undertaking an extensive and detailed analysis of all relevant documents and paperwork dating back to August 2021.

This analysis will provide the substantive evidence base upon which probing questions of key individual members of staff and Court, past and present, will be prepared covering all aspects of the terms of reference.

In depth interviews will then be undertaken covering leadership and cultural issues as well as management, communication and governance matters.

An early Townhall has been planned for May 1st at the University for Trade Unions and student representatives and staff, to openly share once more the terms of reference of the investigation, the timeline to reporting and to hear any further views they may wish to offer the investigation team. This meeting will be face to face but also with online access for staff and students of the University.

At this meeting we will confirm that the University community will be appraised of the findings of the report before it is published more widely.

Timeline

10th April: BDO appointed as investigation team

11th April: Lead investigator visited the University to meet University liaison member

14th April: James Aston and lead investigator meet to begin the process of launching the investigation and compiling documents with the support of Helen Simpson (interim Director of Finance).

15-16th April : James Aston met interim Director of Finance

15th April - 16th May : detailed analysis of documents including financial reporting , management, communication and governance oversight.

1st May : Staff & student Townhall

19-26th May : Live interviews

27th May - 14th June preparation of the report

16th June : Report available to SFC, Scottish Government and University Court

19th June: Morning Townhall for Trade Unions & student representatives and staff of Dundee University to share findings. In addition, sharing of the report with members of the Education, Children and Young People Committee and local MSP's.

19th June: lunchtime for formal publication of the report.

The investigation team recognises that this investigation must be entirely independent, rigorous and undertaken as swiftly as possible. Whilst the timeline outlined above is challenging I am confident that the team will deliver as described.

Members, if you have information that is pertinent to the investigation it would be really helpful to receive it. Please contact BDO at: BDOenquiries.Dundee@bdo.co.uk

I am also happy to discuss if that is appropriate.

I am aware that the Education, Children and Young People Committee is planning to hold further evidence sessions with former staff from the University of Dundee. To enable the Committee to reach its conclusions with access to as much information as possible, it may be preferable to wait until the report is available before holding further evidence sessions.

Yours sincerely,

Pamela

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