

Douglas Ross MSP  
Convener of the Education Children and Young People Committee  
Scottish Parliament

11 April 2025

Dear Mr Ross,

Following last month's announcement of an independent investigation into the University of Dundee's finances, I am pleased to be able to inform the Committee that the Scottish Funding Council has now appointed a team of experts to carry out the work.

The investigation will be undertaken by a cross-discipline team from BDO. Amongst the important tasks the team will undertake is an examination of the role of management and governance. It will also look at information flow, cultural issues, and whether appropriate questions were asked at the university's executive group, court and committees.

BDO is well respected and highly experienced in its field, including in the fiscal management of higher education institutions in financial distress. It also has significant experience of university governance, having been consulted in the development of governance codes and the sector's audit code of practice.

The appointment of BDO is an important step forward. They will have full access to all appropriate documents and will be meeting with a wide range of people including the University's executive team, trade unions, regulators and, where possible, former members of staff and Court.

Professor Pamela Gillies, the Lead Investigator, and her newly appointed team will begin their investigation at pace. We can now confirm our expectation that the final report will be available to committee members and published mid-June.

Given the interest from local MSPs, a copy of this letter has been shared with both members of the Committee and with constituency and regional MSPs.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqui Brasted  
Interim Director Access Learning and Outcomes