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Douglas Ross MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
By email: ECYP.committee@parliament.scot

27 November 2025

Dear Convener,

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE FUNDING CONDITIONS

I write regarding the latest developments on University of Dundee funding. I appreciate the Committee's ongoing engagement on this important matter and wish to ensure that all relevant information is clearly communicated.

I understand that the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has written to inform the Committee that draft conditions have been sent by SFC to the University of Dundee Court, and these have also been published on the SFC website. These do not yet provide a firm offer of funding as the University must be given an opportunity to consider and feed back.

As you know, funding for the University is being provided under a section 25 directive of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005. As such Ministers have instructed the SFC to provide extraordinary support for the University, but it is for the SFC to set out the conditions for that funding clearly and ensure that the University meets them going forward.

The conditions were developed following significant engagement between the SFC and the University to understand the issues they face, followed by scrutiny provided by the SFC's expert Board. They strike a necessary balance between providing firm oversight to safeguard public investment with the flexibility needed for the University's swift and sustainable strategic recovery.

In order to help reach this position, Deloitte have been contracted to provide a range of due diligence related to the current and future financial position of the University. The Government has been clear from the outset that we expect every effort to be made by the University of Dundee to protect staff and student interests. Each job lost is a significant challenge for individuals and families. But the scale and suddenness of job losses as

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originally proposed would have been hugely damaging to the University, the city and region. It was serious financial mismanagement and a lack of financial planning by the previous management team which led to the University's current deficit and the pain experienced by staff. Staff must now have the opportunity to contribute to the vision for the future.

The Government's clear focus from the beginning has been to see the University of Dundee continue to operate and create a stable platform from which it can thrive in the future.

In order to keep Parliament fully informed I will provide an update today by way of GIQ on this and associated next steps.

The conditions do not constitute a formal offer of funding. Following engagement between SFC and the University in the coming weeks, a formal offer will be made, and it will be for the University Court to decide whether to accept or reject. I will provide a further update to Parliament at that point.

JENNY GILRUTH

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