

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Douglas Ross MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

ECYP.committee@parliament.scot

28 April 2025

Dear Convener,

Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill: Correction to the Policy Memorandum

It has come to my attention that the explanation provided in the Policy Memorandum accompanying the above Bill about student support for students undertaking further education (FE) courses at private providers is incorrect.

Paragraph 283 of the Policy Memorandum stated that, “The SFC funds student support for students undertaking FE courses at private providers. Private providers offer FE courses on a range of subjects including veterinary science, dentistry, personal training, hairdressing, music and greenkeeping.”

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) provides funding to colleges for student support which is then disbursed to further education students at college. As part of an agreed arrangement with their college, students can undertake courses delivered by private training providers as part of their college course, but for the student to receive student support, they have to be registered as a student in a college. However, the SFC does not (and cannot) provide student support for students undertaking FE courses at private providers outside of arrangements made by colleges.

This does not have an impact on the Bill or its provisions. However, I want to ensure that the Committee is properly informed as it scrutinises the Bill. I apologise for this error.

Yours sincerely,

GRAEME DEY

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot