



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jamie Hepburn MSP
Minister for Higher Education, Further
Education, Youth Employment and
Training

Public Audit Committee
Room T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Direct Tel: (0131) 348 5186

Email:

publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot

By email only

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Dear Minister

Planning for skills

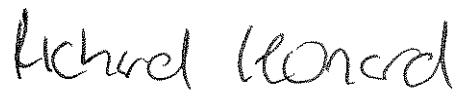
Thank you for your letters of 28 June 2022 and 31 August 2022, in which you provided an Executive Summary of the proposed Shared Outcomes Framework and advised the Committee of your intention to initiate an independent review of the skills delivery landscape. This information was helpful to us in our scrutiny of the Auditor General for Scotland's (AGS) report on [Planning for skills](#), published on 20 January 2022.

The Committee acknowledges that the Framework demonstrates a sign of progress by the Scottish Government in defining the strategic direction and delivery of skills alignment and outcomes. However, as you will be aware, the AGS states in his report that "The Scottish Government needs to take urgent action to realise its ambitions for skills alignment" and commented during oral evidence on the slow progress that has been made towards skills alignment since 2017.

The Committee notes with interest your intention to initiate an independent review, which you state will focus on the functions and remit of Skills Development Scotland and its interface with – and role within – the wider skills delivery landscape. We urge you to ensure that the review moves with alacrity to make the required improvements as soon as practicably possible, to achieve a skills delivery landscape that is fit for purpose.

At its meeting on 29 September 2022, the Committee agreed to close its scrutiny of the Planning for skills report and in doing so, write to the Education, Children and Young People Committee to draw its attention to issues raised during its scrutiny of the report. In particular, we have asked that it gives consideration to monitoring the progress and delivery of the Shared Outcomes Framework and the independent review, given the seriousness of the issues we heard during our scrutiny of the report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Leonard". The script is cursive and somewhat informal.

Richard Leonard MSP
Convener