



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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**Public Audit Committee**  
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5 March 2024

Dear Karen,

**Scotland's colleges 2023**

Thank you for providing oral evidence to the Public Audit Committee on the above briefing at its meeting on [11 January 2024](#). Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed to seek further information in relation to the following areas—

- Please explain in further detail, the practical impact of the SFC's new funding distribution model. The Committee is particularly keen to understand the extent to which it will help resolve the financial position of Scotland's colleges given the sector's overall operating deficit is over £13 million.
- The Committee is also keen to understand how Scotland's colleges are being supported to help meet the current needs of students and employers in their local communities while awaiting the Scottish Government taking over national responsibility for skills planning.
- Please provide information on how demand for courses is measured. For example, is it based on the number of students seeking to undertake the course or the needs of the local economy?

The Committee notes the forthcoming changes that are planned for Scotland's college sector. We wish to impress upon both the SFC and the Scottish Government the need for more urgency in the speed of these reforms, in order to provide more clarity to the sector.

The Committee would welcome a response by **1 April 2024**.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Leonard MSP**  
**Convener**