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Convener
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1 December 2022

Dear Convener

PUBLICATION OF THE CONSULTATION ON POLICY PROPOSALS TO ADD TRADE UNION NOMINEES ONTO THE BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT OF COLLEGE INSTITUTIONS

I write to provide you with an update on the work to introduce trade union nominees onto the boards of management of college institutions, which was an issue that came up across evidence sessions of the committee's inquiry into college regionalisation.

In 2019, the Scottish Government committed to introducing two trade union nominees to the boards of management of college institutions. This work is part of a wider set of governance reforms that were put forward by the Good College Governance Task Group, which undertook a review of college governance in 2016.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, work to amend subordinate legislation to introduce trade union nominees onto college boards was put on hold. However, we have now restarted this work.

In order to introduce trade union representatives onto the boards of management of college institutions, subordinate legislation will be required to amend the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992, the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Lanarkshire Colleges Order 2014.

We are now seeking to consult on a set of policy proposals that will inform the development of the subordinate legislation. The consultation will be published today, 1 December 2022, and run through to 27 January 2023. This consultation will allow that Scottish Government to gain valuable feedback on the policy proposals and enable the finalising of the SSI.

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

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My officials will continue their engagement with the sector as we progress this piece of work, keeping the sector updated on developments.

JAMIE HEPBURN

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