

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

Sue Webber MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
(by email)

Email: ECYP.committee@parliament.scot

16 May 2024

Dear Convener,

COLLEGE SECTOR: REFORM OF REGIONAL STRATEGIC BODIES – GLASGOW AND LANARKSHIRE COLLEGE REGIONS

I would like to update the Education, Children and Young People Committee on plans to reform Regional Strategic Bodies within the college sector. This follows on from my correspondence to the committee in March 2024 which provided an update on post school reform and the wider work to support delivery of the reform programme.

As you will be aware, I previously advised that I received advice from the Scottish Funding Council to reform the Regional Strategic Bodies within the college sector.

My Officials and I have now fully considered these recommendations and I am writing to update the Committee that the first steps in this process will begin with the launch of a consultation, across the sector and beyond, on plans to dissolve the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board and The Lanarkshire Board and to establish different regional collaboration mechanisms. I welcome hearing different views and perspectives from stakeholders as this work progresses.

It is important to highlight that change of this magnitude will not happen overnight and we recognise the importance of working with the bodies involved as well as stakeholders to get this right.

I am fully aware of the impact of this decision on staff, particularly of the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board and I have asked the Chair of the Board to provide as much support as possible during this period of transition in line with Fair Work principles.

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As previously communicated, reform of the Regional Strategic Bodies will need legislative change, therefore the period of formal consultation will ensure that we have considered all intended and unintended outcomes prior to a final decision and implementation. As part of this, we have been clear that any resultant changes to existing structures and processes should not weaken oversight or accountability of the Glasgow and Lanarkshire colleges. The Committee will be able to provide their views throughout this process.

This consultation will go live in the coming weeks and will run for 12 weeks, and a full analysis of responses will be published in due course.

I hope you find this update helpful, and I will, of course, continue to provide updates to the Committee as this work moves forward.

Yours sincerely



GRAEME DEY MSP

Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

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

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