



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

Douglas Ross MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
Scottish Parliament

By email only

27 February 2025

Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill: Scottish Government view on protected subject-matter

As you will be aware, the Presiding Officer has a statutory responsibility under section 31(2A) of the Scotland Act 1998 ("the 1998 Act") to take a decision on whether or not a Bill relates to a protected subject-matter. The 1998 Act requires any Bill that does so to be passed by a super-majority. The 1998 Act also requires the Presiding Officer's decision to be taken after the last point at which the Bill can be amended. In practice, the Presiding Officer takes and notifies the Parliament of that decision after any Stage 3 amendments have been considered.

In the meantime, I thought that your committee might find it useful to know that the Scottish Government's view is that the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) Bill, as introduced, does not contain any provision that, under the 1998 Act, would mean it required a super-majority to pass.

I am copying this letter to the Lord Advocate, Graeme Dey MSP, the Minister for Higher and Further Education as the lead Minister, and to the Parliament's Legislation Team.

JAMIE HEPBURN

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

