



The Educational
Institute of Scotland

Ref: SB/FE/PAC
6th December 2023

Public Audit Committee

T3.60
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email only

Dear Convenor,

I am writing to you to seek to have the record corrected, following my appearance as a witness to the committee on Thursday 30th November 2023. This relates to the following statement, that I have taken from the Official Report of the meeting:

The college sector is in crisis. The EIS and its Further Education Lecturers Association have been saying as much for months; in fact, we wrote to every single college principal and to College Employers Scotland to ask them to publicly back our request for an emergency funding package. However, we got not one reply—not one.

I wish for the committee to be aware that when making the statement above, I had forgotten of three replies that were received to the letter sent by EIS-FELA requesting a joint call be made for an emergency funding package. This was brought to my attention in recent days following my appearance at committee and I have subsequently undertaken work to ensure I have a correct grasp of events.

From the records held by myself, I have found that College Employers Scotland replied asking for further information regarding the request being made, one college Principal replied in a formal letter and one further college Principal replied informally.

However, although these replies were received and two informal conversations took place between two college principals and myself, there were no agreements made to publicly join with EIS-FELA in calling for an emergency funding package; as was requested in the aforementioned letter. Similarly, although I discussed the request with College Employers Scotland, no agreement was reached on publicly calling jointly for an emergency funding package.

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General Secretary · Andrea Bradley

When making the statement, EIS-FELA's disappointment on the lack of agreement to publicly make a joint call for emergency funding was the main thrust of the point that I wished to make and in doing so, I made the statement to the best of my recollection. However, I accept and regret that this is not what I articulated and therefore not what the record reflects.

I wish to convey my sincerest apologies to the committee for this miscommunication and request that the information that I have now provided is shared with its members. I hope that the clarification provided affords committee members an understanding of the point that I wished to make.

Thank you again for the opportunity to give evidence to the committee. I know that this was greatly appreciated by EIS-FELA activists.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stuart Brown
EIS National Officer (Further Education)