

LETTER FROM THE PUBLIC AUDIT COMMITTEE TO THE SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL, DATED 2 NOVEMBER 2015

Dear Mr Howells

AUDITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (AGS) SECTION 22 REPORT: “[THE 2013/14 AUDIT OF COATBRIDGE COLLEGE: GOVERNANCE OF SEVERANCE ARRANGEMENTS](#)”

Thank you for giving evidence to the Public Audit Committee on the above report on 28 October 2015. The Official Report of the meeting is now available on the Committee’s webpage: www.scottish.parliament.uk/publicaudit

At that meeting you agreed to write to the Committee on a number of issues raised in discussion. The Committee would therefore welcome the following:

- Details of all contact between the Scottish Funding Council and the internal and/or external auditors of Coatbridge College and the reason for contact;
- The legal advice provided to the Scottish Funding Council by DLA Piper on 18 December 2013;
- A timeline of communication between the Scottish Funding Council and Scottish Government officials and what was being discussed on each occasion in relation to Coatbridge College;
- Information on the Lanarkshire federation scheme, and any changes made to it after it was presented for potential adoption across the four Lanarkshire colleges by South Lanarkshire College in December 2012; and
- Details of all college voluntary severance schemes which exceeded the SFC guidance, details of the number of individual payments that exceeded the SFC guidance and the business cases provided for each of these voluntary severance packages.

Our normal practice is to publish relevant evidence that is sent to us on our website and we may also include it in the hard copy of any committee report. **Therefore, if you wish your evidence to be treated as confidential, or for your evidence to be published anonymously, please contact the Clerk to the Committee, before you submit your evidence.** Further information on the publication of written submissions is contained in the policy on the treatment of written evidence by committees which is available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/31037.aspx>
Please take time to read this policy.

I would be grateful for a response to this letter as soon as possible to assist the Committee in its ongoing consideration of this report. Should you have any queries, please contact the clerk to the committee on 85390 or pa.committee@scottish.parliament.uk.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Martin MSP
Convener**