

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC AUDIT COMMITTEE TO SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND, DATED 30 JUNE 2014

Auditor general for Scotland (AGS) report “Modern apprenticeships”

At its meeting on 25 June 2014, the Committee considered a [written submission from SDS dated 18 June 2014](#), regarding the above report. The written submission responded to issues raised by the Committee following oral evidence from SDS at its [meeting on 28 May 2014](#).

You will note from the [Public Audit Committee 25 June Official Report](#) that the Committee agreed to write to SDS and the Scottish Government for further clarification on issues raised in its consideration of the response.

The Committee requested an update on “what work SDS is undertaking with awarding bodies and QA accreditation to improve quality assurance arrangements including good practice, and agreeing who is responsible for acting on and reporting concerns about training provider performance.”

In your written submission, you confirm that the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) is responsible for accrediting vocational qualifications whilst SDS assesses providers against its Provider Service Quality Standards. However the Committee would welcome further information on the extent to which there is formal independent assessment of the training provided by the non-FE sector (outside colleges), such as private training providers as well as the quality of on the job training by employers.

I have also written to the Scottish Government for further clarification on the priority of objectives and the development of outcome measures and I have attached a copy of this letter for you information.

I would be grateful for a response by Monday 25 July 2014. Should you have any further questions, please contact the Assistant Clerk, Jason Nairn, on 0131 348 5236. 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. Further information on the publication of written submissions is set out on the Parliament’s website at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/31037.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Hugh Henry MSP
Public Audit Committee Convener