



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education

Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

A' brosnachadh foghlam adhartach agus àrd-ìre

Our ref:

20 November 2015

Paul Martin MSP  
Convener  
Public Audit Committee  
c/- Room T 3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Martin

### **Linkston Report**

I am writing to you to give you a copy of a report that the SFC commissioned into the management of the merger of Coatbridge College and New College Lanarkshire.

The report was commissioned to investigate whether there were any lessons to be learned from the implementation of the merger between Coatbridge College and New College Lanarkshire. It was commissioned following representations from the family Francis McGeachie, one of the senior managers at the College who took his own life in late 2013. The review was carried out by Alex Linkston.

I am sending it to you now because the family of Mr McGeachie asked in a recent meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and myself that it be made available in confidence to you as Chair of the Committee. For completeness, I have also included a report on the progress of the recommendations. Clearly, the report covers some sensitive issues. It is for that reason that we have not made the report public.

While the report is not directly related to the current work of your Committee on the severance arrangements at Coatbridge, it does cover some issues that may be relevant. If there are questions that arise out of your reading of the report I would, of course, be happy to answer them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence Howells', written in a cursive style.

**Laurence Howells**  
Chief Executive