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Mr Paul Martin MSP
Convener
Public Audit Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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29 September 2015

Dear Andrew

Section 22 report on the 2013/14 audit of Coatbridge College

During my briefing to the Public Audit Committee on 9 September 2015 about my report on the 2013/14 audit of Coatbridge College, I said New College Lanarkshire had taken legal advice on what action was possible regarding the recovery of funds or civil or criminal action (Official report, column 16). Following the committee meeting, the chair of New College Lanarkshire made us aware that it had not sought legal advice on these matters. The auditor of Coatbridge College has since clarified that the chair of Coatbridge College, Mr Tom Keenan, took advice in November 2013 about the legality of the voluntary severance arrangements put in place by the college. Mr Keenan was chair from 1 November 2013 to the end of March 2014.

I apologise for providing inaccurate information to the committee. The committee may wish to seek further information from the chair of Coatbridge College and/or the Scottish Funding Council about legal advice sought on Coatbridge College's severance payments.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Gardner

Caroline Gardner
Auditor General for Scotland