

Public Audit Committee

2013/14 audit of Coatbridge College: Governance of severance arrangements

Submission from Thomas Keenan

Response

Paul Martin Convener of Public Audit Committee

Thank you for your letter of 15th of September 2015. Your correspondence invited me to provide written evidence in relation to a report submitted to the Public Audit Committee by the Auditor General in regard to the Audit of Coatbridge College Governance of severance arrangements.

As members of the committee may be aware a report was commissioned by the previous education minister in relation to the merger of the colleges within Lanarkshire. The review was not conducted on the basis of the inquiries act and therefore was not as comprehensive an inquiry as may have been obtained under this act. The review deals with a number of issues in relation to governance and sets out some of the views of the author on these issues and would provide some background informative for members of the committee.

It was my understanding that the review would be published sometime last year. I was however advised that family members wished that its content remain unpublished. Members of the committee should note that staff members who participated in the review were granted a waiver in respect of their settlement agreements which i understand to be subject to confidentiality agreements. I read excerpts of the linkston report in last weeks. Glasgow Herald and I have concluded that the family no longer wishes this report to remain confidential.

It is my understanding that the report is held by The Scottish funding Council.

I understand that the former Director of Human Resources and board secretary has not been requested to provide information to the committee. Miss Gunn played a major role in college life and it would be helpful given her dual role for the committee to consider seeking her assistance in this matter.