



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education



Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

A' brosnachadh foghlam adhartach agus àrd ìre

14 May 2018

Ned Sharratt  
Assistant Clerk  
Education and Skills Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Sharratt,

### **Implementation of Cole report recommendations by colleges and universities**

The Scottish Funding Council wrote to all colleges and universities to ensure that they had responded properly to the recommendations in the Cole report. In particular, we asked them to:

1. Confirm that they had considered the findings in the Cole Report
2. Confirm that they had put in place all the necessary estate and project management controls to mitigate the risks highlighted in the Cole report

We have now received a full set of responses all colleges and universities. All respondents had considered the findings and confirmed they had the necessary estate and project management controls in place to mitigate the risks highlighted in the report.

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In addition, we asked colleges and universities to provide a brief summary of the key ways in which they were either already addressing or are now addressing the recommendations in the Cole report. Institutions reported that:

- Policies and procedures which will govern any future projects take cognisance of the findings of the Cole Report, including, specifically the recommendations contained within Section 13 of the Report.
- Independently appointed Tester/Verifier and specialist consultants, including Quantity Surveyors, will be put in place
- Employing independent consultants to assist in the process of tendering, evaluating and appointing. Often these consultants act as project managers to ensure consistency.
- All tenders are scored on quality. Institutions insist on references, evidence of jobs of a similar size and also other information such as accident records or legal actions, training records for personnel involved and also management structures, to ensure correct supervision is in place.

I hope the foregoing is helpful and I would be happy to help with any further information if that would be useful.

Yours sincerely,

**Martin Fairbairn**  
Chief Operating Officer