

Jenny Marra MSP  
Convener  
Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee

23 February 2017

Dear Jenny

In October the Scottish Government published Phase 1 of the Enterprise and Skills review. The primary focus being to make a step-change in enterprise and skills support to help progress towards our ambition of Scotland ranking among the top quartile of OECD countries in terms of productivity, equality, wellbeing and sustainability.

To deliver this, Phase 1 set out 10 actions, the first of which was 'To bring greater integration and focus to the delivery of our enterprise and skills support to businesses and users of the skills system, we will create a new Scotland-wide statutory board to co-ordinate the activities of HIE and SE, including SDI, SDS and the SFC'.

In January 2017, I asked Professor Lorne Crerar to lead discussions with the other Agency chairs and interested Ministerial Review Group (MRG) members and provide a paper on the principles and potential outline structure of the overarching Strategic Board.

Prof. Crerar submitted his paper outlining his views on the potential Strategic Board functions and structure on 8 February.

A copy of Lorne Crerar's paper, "Proposals on Governance and the Creation of a Strategic Board", has now been published on the Scottish Government website and can be accessed at: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/economic-growth/consulting-on-the-economy/>

I will now consider the detail of Professor Crerar's proposals, the views of the Ministerial Review Group and those expressed by wider interests in taking forward the development of the Strategic Board. I will make a statement to parliament in the next few weeks.

**Keith Brown**