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Mr Stephen Kerr MSP
Convener
Education, Children & Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

5 April 2022

Dear Convener

Following my appearance on 12 January 2022 at the Education, Children and Young People Committee to give evidence on the Education and Skills Portfolio Budget 2022-23, and the subsequent letter answering specific points of questioning, I undertook to update you as information on the college sector budget for Financial Year 2022-23 becomes clearer.

The Scottish Budget 2022-23 published on 9th December 2021 allocated the college sector £675.7 million in resource funding, £29.3 million for Non-Profit Distributing (NPD), and £74.7 million in capital funding which includes an uplift of £5 million to meet the Programme for Government commitment on digital poverty for the community learning and development (CLD), college and university sectors. Of this additional £5 million of capital funding, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has clarified that colleges will receive £2.9 million, the CLD sector will receive £0.5 million, and the remaining £1.6 million will be allocated to universities. £2.9 million of mental health and wellbeing funding to colleges has also been committed to support investment in counsellors and equity of access. Since the announcement of the budget, an additional £10 million of Young Persons Guarantee funding has been allocated to colleges and their learners.

We continue to anticipate that £12 million will be transferred to the SFC for the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF). Subject to confirmation, the full funds required to complete the National Transition Training Fund (NTTF) delivery and finish the commitment to academic year 2021-22 will also be transferred. We do not expect this sum to exceed £2 million.

SFC has announced the indicative academic year 2022-23 funding allocations for the college sector on 24th March 2022, with final allocations to be confirmed in May. The SFC also

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wrote to the college sector on 21st March 2022 setting out its approach to provide colleges with a supportive environment in terms of further year-end flexibilities.

In summary, the current college sector funding for 2022-23 stands at £790.5 million (excluding the FWDF and the NTTf). We will update the committee again with the final budgetary position for the sector after Spring Budget Revisions have been completed.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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