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Sue Webber MSP

Convener, Education Children and Young People Committee

Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh,

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Sent by email

Dear Sue,

RE: Upskilling Scotland's Workforce

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me earlier this week. It is much appreciated particularly during recess. To follow up on the conversation I wanted to highlight recent developments in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Executive has undertaken a scoping exercise of expenditure which has resulted in the re-instatement of their upskilling budget. They will shortly be launching a 'Skill Up' programme which aligns with the Executive's recently published Economic Vision focusing on Good Jobs, Improving Productivity, Addressing Regional Imbalance and Reducing Carbon.

We would very much like to see a similar scoping exercise conducted with a fresh lens of prioritising upskilling provision. We appreciate that the Scottish Government through its consultation on the legislation for 'Post-School Education and Skills Reform' is looking to simplify the funding system for students and institutions. We cannot however wait for the outcome of the consultation and the implementation of

any proposed structural changes for prospective learners to be supported to upskill and or re-skill in order to boost the country's economy.

If I can be of any assistance ahead of upcoming evidence sessions then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Robson

Senior Public Affairs Manager

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cc:

Clerk to Education, Children and Young People Committee