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BY EMAIL

Principals and Chairs of FE Colleges in Scotland
Scotland's Colleges
Universities Scotland
National Union of Students Scotland
Scottish Trades Union Congress
Educational Institute of Scotland
UNISON Scotland
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Association of Directors of Education in Scotland
Confederation of British Industry Scotland
Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland
Scottish Chambers of Commerce
Institute of Directors Scotland
Scottish Council for Development & Industry
University and Colleges Union
National Parent Forum Scotland
Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands
Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development Group Enterprise



14 November 2011

Dear Colleague

POST-16 REFORM: COLLEGE REGIONALISATION

The pre-legislative paper, *Putting Learners at the Centre*, published in September 2011, makes plain the Government's ambition to refocus provision so that it is more sharply aligned with our ambitions for jobs and growth. It also emphasises an unwavering focus on the needs of learners. All this implies a different approach where:

- there is a much sharper focus on outcomes;
- planning, funding and delivery is focused on a regional approach; and
- funding is simpler and needs-based.

Notwithstanding the consultation process already underway, it is important to build momentum quickly. To that end, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council have jointly developed an approach to regionalisation that builds on *Putting Learners at the Centre* and takes account of views expressed by college leaders in a series of engagement events held in the last few weeks. The attached consultation paper puts forward a set of propositions for the funding and structure of the college sector, and the process and timetable for making change happen - from 2012-13 onwards. Alongside the Funding Council, we will maintain our close dialogue with the college sector, fully recognising the importance of continued discussion and debate on potential solutions.

We would welcome your views on this more detailed consultation paper by **23 December 2011** (when the consultation on *Putting Learners at the Centre* closes). A copy of this document, and information on how to submit your response, can be found at www.sfc.ac.uk/jointconsultation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Russell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL RUSSELL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McClelland', with a large, looping initial 'J'.

JOHN McCLELLAND