



# SFC Guidance

## Colleges as SCQF credit-rating bodies

Issue date: 14 May 2015

Reference: SFC/GD/02/2015

Summary: To set out new guidance on Credit Rating Body status as it relates to colleges

FAO: Principals of Scotland's colleges

Further information: **Contact:** Gus MacLeod  
**Job title:** Senior Policy Officer  
**Department:** Learning, Governance and Sustainability  
**Tel:** 0131 313 6536  
**Email:** [gmacleod@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:gmacleod@sfc.ac.uk)

## Colleges as SCQF credit-rating bodies

### Introduction

1. This document sets out new guidance on Credit Rating Body status as it relates to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.

### Background

2. [Circular SFC/05/2007](#) (26 January 2007) set out the basis on which colleges might chose to be designated with CRB status. This related to colleges which were listed as fundable bodies in the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005.
3. The radical restructuring of the FE sector in Scotland and the introduction of college regions (set out on the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013) necessitates a new approach to CRB status. This is because in some college regions, the regional strategic body may in future be the fundable body whilst in single college regions, the college will be the fundable body.

### Guidance

4. The following guidance sets out our expectation that the CRB status will continue to relate to individual colleges.
5. Therefore with effect from the date of this guidance, CRB status may be conferred on colleges which are recipients of SFC funding either directly or indirectly. CRB status will not be conferred on regional strategic bodies.
6. The position remains that every Scottish college is entitled to credit-rate provision although it is a matter for each college to decide whether it wishes to do so or not.
7. Colleges may credit-rate both their own provision against the SCQF and also provision offered by other third party organisations which may include specific employers or voluntary bodies.
8. Colleges are advised to liaise with the SCQF Partnership on any plans for credit-rating, particularly to ensure that any relevant provision has not already been credit-rated by another body. Colleges should ensure that they use the SCQF database to keep up to date with what has been credit-rated. Colleges will need to put in place appropriate procedures for quality assurance of credit-rating, are required to apply the guidelines issued by SCQF and to ensure that the credit-rating is subject to the college's normal quality assurance processes. The SCQF office is willing to provide advice and referral on such matters including the running of tailored workshops for college staff.

## Further information

9. Gus MacLeod, Job title: Senior Policy Officer  
Department: Learning, Governance and Sustainability  
Tel: 0131 313 6536  
Email: [gmacleod@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:gmacleod@sfc.ac.uk)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Baverstock', with a stylized, cursive script.

Brian Baverstock  
Deputy Director, Learning, Governance and Sustainability