Flexible Workforce Development Fund update 28 February 2018

In November 2017 we provided an update to colleges regarding an extension of the date for carrying out a redistribution of FWDF until 28 February 2018. This date had been set so that we could pause and reflect on the programme delivery to date. The original guidance on the FWDF (7 September 2017) stated that applications for FWDF “can be submitted to regional colleges during the period 11 September to 15 December 2017. Providing that the employer and the training identified meets FWDF eligibility criteria, regional colleges and RSB’s will allocate the funds on a ‘first-come first-served’ basis. Any underspend of funds after 15 December will be redistributed to college regions where there is evidence of unmet demand.”

Having reviewed the committed expenditure reported by colleges, no college has at this point indicated they will exceed their available funds. As such there is no need for any redistribution.

We are therefore asking colleges to continue to engage with employers with a view to fully utilising their FWDF allocation by end date for delivery, which is, that all training must be contractually committed by the end of June 2018, although the training may continue beyond that date.

It was our intention to pay FWDF to colleges/regions spread evenly over four quarters starting in October 2017 and then January, April and July 2018. Colleges will have received their October 2017 and January 2018 payments. Further payments will be adjusted to meet need, effectively claims based. SFC and the Scottish Government remain closely interested in progress with the delivery of the FWDF and therefore it is essential that colleges continue to report their FWDF spend/commitments via SFC’s FWDF portal. We will use this as the evidence base for further claims against the fund.