



Law Society
of Scotland

Written Evidence

Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability in Further and Higher Education

10 August 2020



Introduction

The Law Society of Scotland is the professional body for over 12,000 Scottish solicitors. With our overarching objective of leading legal excellence, we strive to excel and to be a world-class professional body, understanding and serving the needs of our members and the public. We set and uphold standards to ensure the provision of excellent legal services and ensure the public can have confidence in Scotland's solicitor profession.

We have a statutory duty to work in the public interest, a duty which we are strongly committed to achieving through our work to promote a strong, varied and effective solicitor profession working in the interests of the public and protecting and promoting the rule of law. We seek to influence the creation of a fairer and more just society through our active engagement with the Scottish and United Kingdom Governments, Parliaments, wider stakeholders and our membership.

The Education and Training (Standards Setting) sub-committee welcomes the opportunity to consider and respond to the Scottish Funding Council consultation: A Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability in Further and Higher Education. The sub-committee has the following comments to put forward for consideration.

Initial Comments

Role and Remit of the Education and Training (Standards Setting) sub-committee

The aims and functions of the Education and Training Committee (Standard Setting) sub-committee include assuring the quality of those admitted as solicitors in Scotland by review of policy and standards for pre- and post-qualification education and training and by quality assurance of the components of solicitors' pre-qualification education and training.

The sub-committee's interest is therefore directed to those post 16 education bodies that deliver accredited programmes which comprise part of the route to qualification as a solicitor in Scotland and more generally in supporting the SFC's mission of securing coherent provision by post-16 education bodies.

Specific Comments

The sub-committee would make an overarching initial comment at this early stage in the process. The sub-committee notes and welcomes at this early stage in the process the SFC's commitment in relation to using the cited Scottish Government policies as drivers for this review including that relating to widening access and participation.

The sub-committee further recognises the balance that must be met by the SFC in its allocation in funding between teaching and research to ensure the continued financial viability of institutions.

The sub-committee would welcome the opportunity to comment further throughout the review process.



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For further information, please contact:

Rob Marrs

Education Training and Qualifications

Law Society of Scotland

DD: 0131 226 8882

robmarrs@lawscot.org.uk