



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

## Call for Evidence: A Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability in Further and Higher Education

**SFC Call for Information**

Issue Date: 20 July 2020

## A Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability in Further and Higher Education: Call for Evidence

1. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) is the national, strategic body that funds further and higher education, and research, in Scotland. We have been asked by Scottish Ministers to review how best we can fulfil our mission of securing coherent provision by post-16 education bodies, and the undertaking of research, in these changing times. A [briefing note on the review](#) can be found on the SFC website.
2. We invite all interested individuals and organisations to submit evidence to help inform and shape our review. We particularly welcome responses from colleges and universities, students and learners, graduates, industry and employers, local government, equalities interests, unions, quality assessors, other SFC funded bodies, professional representative bodies and academies. Annex A lists the key stakeholders we anticipate will be interested in responding to this call for evidence.
3. It would be helpful if you could provide succinct submissions by **10 August 2020**. We would welcome evidence and data that supports your view. You may choose to respond to any aspect of this review; and any or all of the specific questions we pose, as we recognise the inter-connectedness of many of the themes. Please complete the attached respondent information form (Annex B) when submitting your response.
4. This will not be your only opportunity to contribute to our review. We are planning to undertake the review in a number of phases and to elicit views in different ways, including further calls for evidence. We anticipate that responding organisations will wish to provide additional input and evolving views as the review progresses.
5. In this first phase of our review we are interested in your views on these six areas in particular:
  - a) What do you think works well in the current further and higher education arrangements that we should keep in order to secure Scotland's inclusive social and economic recovery from the current pandemic? How can we best preserve and strengthen those features of education, research and innovation in Scotland that we most prize, in a very challenging funding environment?

Flexibility about how and who as an employer we can work with in FE and HE. EG the use of technology has broadened our opportunities as a semi rural area and we have been able to work with education providers in Borders to support our staff to develop key skills

- b) What do you think colleges, universities and specialist institutions should stop doing, or do differently, in order to contribute effectively to an inclusive social and economic recovery? (You may wish to comment on teaching and skills development, sectoral and employer needs and employability, research, innovation and knowledge exchange, widening access and equalities issues.)

Work with Key providers eg NHS to develop programmes that fit with new and emerging roles round pegs and round holes, support providers to work with employers beyond their geography. EG we work with D&G college in some areas and Borders in others based on skills and experiences of the teaching teams. Create opportunities for Ed providers to work in new and innovative ways to create solutions for employers who are all having to work and think differently

- c) How can colleges, universities and specialist institutions best support Scotland's international connectedness and competitiveness in the post-pandemic, post-EU membership environment?
- d) What opportunities and threats does the post-pandemic environment hold for colleges, universities and specialist institutions? For institutional leaders, how are you planning to address these challenges and opportunities?

Training is not prioritised in stretched organisations

- e) What forms of collaboration within the tertiary education eco-system would best enable a coherent and effective response to these challenges and opportunities?

See previous responses

- f) How can SFC, alongside government and other enterprise, skills and education-focused agencies, best support colleges, universities and specialist institutions to make their full contribution to Scotland's inclusive, green and education-led recovery? In particular, you may wish to draw out:
- How scarce public resources should be prioritised to drive recovery
  - Particular areas of collaboration between agencies that would best support the sectors' contributions
  - Adaptations to SFC's funding and accountability frameworks to promote agile and collaborative action by the sectors to build Scotland's recovery
  - SO important! Movement does not have to be physical cross working and sharing could be very much improved by the use of the technology providing opportunities for employers and institutions to reach far beyond

geography and focus on working with partners who are a best fit in terms of skills learning and experience

- How SFC's funding and accountability frameworks should ensure that equality and wide access to educational opportunity are promoted as key elements of the recovery for younger people and adults
- What support SFC and government could give institutions to adapt to a changed environment

6. Please send your response or any queries to [reviewsecretariat@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:reviewsecretariat@sfc.ac.uk) by **10 August 2020**. We look forward to receiving your views.

SFC Review Secretariat  
July 2020

**Stakeholders likely to be interested in responding**

- Colleges, universities, specialist institutions (and their representative bodies) and other funded bodies
- UK counterparts
- Audit Scotland, Education Scotland and QAA
- Enterprise & Skills Strategic Board and agencies
- NUS, sparqs, student bodies, learners, SAAS
- Employers and industry
- NHS
- RSE
- Cultural bodies
- Trade Unions
- EHRC and equality interests
- Local Authorities and Scottish Cities Alliance
- Expert advisers, e.g. Chief Scientific Adviser
- Development bodies, e.g. College Development Network (CDN), Advance HE
- Community and adult learning

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Deadline: 10 August 2020

Reference: SFC/CE/01/2020

Summary: This publication invites all interested individuals and organisations to submit evidences to help inform the SFC review of coherent provision and sustainability in Further and Higher Education.

FAO: Colleges and universities, students and learners, graduates, industry and employers, local government, equalities interest groups, unions, quality assessors, other SFC funded bodies, professional representative bodies and academies

Further information: **Contact:** Review Secretariat  
**Email:** [reviewsecretariat@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:reviewsecretariat@sfc.ac.uk)