

Wednesday 9 September 2015

Colleges Scotland's comment on the Auditor General's Evidence to the Public Audit Committee on the Audit of Coatbridge College 2013/14

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

"It is important to recognise that these decisions taken on severance were made pre-merger by legacy colleges, and not by existing colleges.

"There are now sector-wide procedures and processes in place to effectively manage severance. We now have a new Code of Good Governance for Scotland's Colleges and there are requirements that the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has set out regarding how colleges should process severance payments. The SFC now also has the power to call to account any college which is non-compliant. In addition, since the Office for National Statistics reclassification of colleges as public bodies, colleges must now comply with the Scottish Public Finance Manual, which requires approval both for severance schemes and for any exceptional payments. We are confident that these steps will provide greater accountability and ensure value for money for public finances."

ENDS

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Notes to Editor:

For more information on the Code of Good Governance for Scotland's college, please visit www.scottishcollegegovernance.ac.uk