

**Tuesday 30 January 2018**

**Comment on SFC's College Statistics Report**

Commenting on the College Statistics 2016-17 report, published today by the Scottish Funding Council, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland, said:

“This latest report has confirmed that colleges are continuing to punch above their weight, not only meeting their targets but exceeding them. The number of students has increased by four per cent and colleges have exceeded their full-time equivalent target by over 1,000 places. These are major achievements which show that the sector is committed to delivering the Scottish Government's priorities.

“It is encouraging to see an increase in enrolments to part-time courses. Part-time study is important for people who need a route back into learning, have caring responsibilities, are living with a disability, and for those who want to retrain or upskill and improve their employability.

“The college sector provides an increasingly flexible learner journey with a variety of pathways into a career, working with schools, universities and employers to ensure that the learner takes the route that is both right for them and as efficient as possible. Colleges are contributing significantly to inclusive economic growth in Scotland and delivering courses that support people to gain industry relevant qualifications and skills that lead to employment.”

**ENDS**

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**Notes:**

A copy of the report can be found on the Scottish Funding Council website at <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/statistical-publications/statistical-publications-2018/SFCST012018.aspx>