

**Tuesday 12 June 2018**

**Comment on Ministerial Statement on Student Support**

Commenting on the announcement by the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley-Anne Somerville, the Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, Shona Struthers, said:

“We are delighted by today’s announcement that there will be an additional £21 million funding for student support.

“This is a step in the right direction towards a standard and fair system that provides students with adequate financial support, as well as reasonable certainty on the support they are likely to receive for the duration of their study. We fully support these measures to improve student support funding to ensure that all students can attend college, regardless of their personal circumstances or background.

“Colleges Scotland has been heavily involved in the Review of Student Support over the last year and we are pleased that the plight of college students has been heard. Student support funding is vital in helping many students, particularly from poorer backgrounds, to access high quality courses that lead to recognised qualifications and allow them to progress towards employment and their future careers.”

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact:**

Will McLeish, Head of Communications and Public Affairs:

Tel: 01786 892063

Mobile: 07712 404 397

Email: [will.mcleish@collegesscotland.ac.uk](mailto:will.mcleish@collegesscotland.ac.uk)

Joanne Buchan, Communications and Public Affairs Officer:

Tel: 01786 892012

Mobile: 07590 229 707

Email: [joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk)

**Notes:**

Further details are available on the Scottish Government website at <https://news.gov.scot/news/more-financial-help-for-students>