

**9 October 2014**

**Colleges Scotland's comment on the Draft Budget 2015-16**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland said: "This is not a real funding increase for Scottish colleges. It's a flat cash settlement, which means a decrease in real terms. The inflationary increase for student support is welcomed, however there is less cash available to run colleges.

"The issue of waiting list figures is something that comes up repeatedly, because currently there is no effective system in place to determine unmet demand for college places.

"Colleges Scotland is working in partnership with the Scottish Government and others to improve the application process and overall data handling for those who want to enter colleges.

"A more accurate, comprehensive measure of the demand for college places in Scotland will assist the sector, the Scottish Funding Council and the Scottish Government decide how best to allocate resources.

"The additional funding for tackling youth employment is necessary. The college sector looks forward to being an integral partner in the delivery of this.

"We'll be campaigning for more investment in Scottish colleges over the budget process. It's encouraging that MSPs spoke in favour of increased funding today."

**ENDS**