



PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Colleges Scotland calls for equal standing with university governance arrangements**

Colleges Scotland, the representative body for the college sector in Scotland, is urging government ministers to give the college sector equal standing with universities by approving a Code of Governance for its members.

With today's publication of the [new Scottish Code of Good HE Governance](#) for universities in Scotland, Colleges Scotland is calling for a similar arrangement for colleges, a proposal it submitted to the Scottish Parliament as evidence for the Post-16 Education Bill.

John Henderson, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, commented: "Ministers recognise the benefits of a code of governance for Scottish universities – they must recognise that it is also appropriate for the college sector.

"Colleges have supported the proposal that their chairs be directly appointed by ministers, using the public appointments process.

"A code of governance for colleges should replace the existing requirements in the Post-16 Bill for ministerial approval of colleges' board members and contain a rigorous and transparent appointment procedure.

"Colleges, like universities, work best when they are served by dedicated, accountable and transparent board appointees that are focused on the success of the institution and its students over the long term.

"Scottish colleges will contribute £1.2billion to the Scottish economy by 2020, serving almost 300,000 students every year, responding quickly to the needs of the national and local economies. It is essential that the sector retains this flexibility, and a Code of Governance would be a more effective way to balance accountability with that autonomy."

Colleges Scotland seeks a Code of Governance that will remove the requirement for Ministerial approval of board members, except for the chairs of regional colleges and regional strategic boards who will be directly appointed by Ministers. Colleges Scotland proposes that this code would be developed with the Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council and be underpinned by an audit system, with compliance with the code a condition of grant funding.

**ENDS**

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## **Notes to editors**

To view the published university code, visit:

<http://www.scottishuniversitygovernance.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/FINAL-draft-code-12April13.pdf>