



Colleges Scotland's Statement on Audit Scotland's 'Scotland's Colleges 2016' Report

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

"Audit Scotland has recognised that colleges performed well over the last year and that they continue to meet their activity targets set by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

"The report highlights the significant changes that the sector has faced, whilst continuing to focus on students and the delivery of high quality courses. It is encouraging that 90% of students surveyed in 2015 were satisfied with their experience at college. It is clear from Audit Scotland's report that colleges are great places for many people to learn, and to develop the necessary technical and professional skills that help bring benefit to the individual, as well as to society and the Scottish economy.

"Colleges Scotland acknowledges that there are areas where further work is required. Activity is progressing and we are continuing to work with the Scottish Government, SFC and other key stakeholders.

"In terms of planning, we are working with the trade unions to jointly develop an agreement for a harmonised Workforce for the Future, and we are engaging with the SFC on the development of a 10 year infrastructure plan for the sector. Both of these activities will assist colleges with future planning.

"The Audit Scotland report, whilst emphasising the overall stability of the sector's financial health, is clear that the college sector is showing signs that it is facing significant financial pressures. Colleges Scotland is committed to work with the Scottish Government to ensure that colleges, as public bodies, are as financially stable and sustainable as possible."

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Notes to Editor:

A copy of the report is available on the Audit Scotland website at:

<http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/news/reforms-continue-to-transform-and-challenge-scotlands-colleges>