



PRESS RELEASE

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ASC WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT ON CHARITABLE STATUS

The Association of Scotland's Colleges (ASC) welcomes today's announcement by the First Minister that Scotland's Colleges will retain their charitable status.

The order to disapply aspects of the test from Section 7(4)(b) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 in relation to Scotland's Colleges, has been laid in the Scottish Parliament. This change safeguards the charitable status of Colleges which is essential for them to fulfil their missions in the communities they serve, and avoid a £50 million penalty from the loss of charitable status.

Howard McKenzie, Acting Chief Executive of the ASC, said: "The ASC welcomes moves to retain charitable status for Scotland's Colleges, allowing Colleges to progress with their crucial work. Continuing charitable status will ensure Scottish students, businesses and communities will continue to benefit from the high quality public services offered by Scotland's Colleges.

"We are delighted that the First Minister will address our Annual Conference on 6 June and look forward to hearing his views on how Scotland's Colleges can contribute towards the Government's aim for a smarter Scotland."

Sue Pinder, Convenor of the ASC's Principal's Forum, said: "After being in discussions on this issue since 2004, we are very pleased that the Scottish Government is taking decisive steps to resolve this issue.

"We will consider the detailed effects of the order and we look forward to the future safe in the knowledge that Scotland's Colleges won't lose this important revenue stream and students in Scotland can continue to benefit from the same high quality educational opportunities that Scotland's Colleges are renowned for."

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