



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Scotland's Colleges: Response to SFC Funding Allocation for Colleges**

Scotland's Colleges has welcomed today's announcement that the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) is to allocate £7.7 million to colleges to help meet the demand for student places as a result of the recession.

The funding, which is being allocated to 23 colleges across 14 local authority areas, is targeted at colleges that serve areas with the highest unemployment areas among 17-24 year olds. This award is part of £28.1 million of extra Government funds that colleges are to receive over the next two years.

Chris Travis, Chief Executive of Scotland's Colleges, said: "By awarding this funding, it is clear that the Government recognises the vital role colleges play in fighting the recession. This funding will allow colleges to respond better to the needs of students and businesses during these challenging economic times.

"Targeting the funds to colleges with the highest demand will make a huge difference to these areas, which have also been hit hardest by the recession. While this funding is hugely welcome, the demand for courses is currently at a level that, despite the additional funding, it still won't enable colleges to take everyone on the course of their choice. Also, due to the way the funding is allocated, there are some areas of Scotland where an increased demand for student places won't get addressed.

"Nevertheless, it is hugely important that colleges continue to do everything possible to provide people with opportunities to build the skills needed to support Scotland's economic recovery, and this funding award goes some way to achieving that."

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**For more information, contact:**

Laura Moore, Halogen Communications, (T) 0131 202 0120 (F) 0131 225 3757 (E)

[laura@halogencom.com](mailto:laura@halogencom.com)