



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scotland's Colleges Welcomes Student Support Consultation

Scotland's Colleges has welcomed today's launch of the Scottish Government's consultation on the future of student support, Supporting a Smarter Scotland.

Sue Pinder, Lead Principal for Scotland's Colleges, said: "Since coming to power, the SNP Government has demonstrated its commitment to reducing the financial pressures on Scottish students, and to making education as accessible as possible.

"Today's consultation is very welcome and provides a fantastic opportunity for the college sector to engage with government on this important issue. Statistics show that college students are, on average, poorer and more debt-averse than their university counterparts, so it is vital that the right structure is in place to support them financially.

"The average HNC or HND student currently juggles up to nine different income streams to survive on their course. These students need more help, and we welcome the opportunity to propose a funding model that will ease the pressure on these students, who are often those who need education the most."

Scotland's Colleges will be co-ordinating the sector's response to the consultation, with the aim of proposing a funding model that addresses some of the particularly difficult circumstances Scotland's poorest students currently face, particularly the burden of debt which causes serious difficulties for Scotland's HNC and HND students.

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