



PRESS RELEASE

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Scottish Funding Council Chief Executive appointment

Scotland's Colleges warmly welcome today's announcement that Mark Batho (Director of Lifelong Learning, Scottish Government) will be the new Chief Executive of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council (SFC).

Howard McKenzie, Acting Chief Executive of the Association of Scotland's Colleges said: "I congratulate the council on a wise and bold choice. Mark is a well-known and highly regarded colleague who has put his stamp on further and higher education policy in his time as Director of Lifelong Learning at the Scottish Government. He chaired the Review that demonstrated for the first time the key value to the economy of investment in Scotland's Colleges.

"Mark's insight into further and higher education and broad based knowledge of the college sector will serve him well in his new and demanding role as SFC Chief Executive.

"Mark has taken great efforts to engage with the college Principals and ensure our collective voice is heard and heeded at the heart of Government. SFC has challenges ahead; not least responding to the University Task Force report and helping frame the Government's new policies on student support. He is well-placed to steer the organisation through these challenges.

"Scotland's Colleges are building a strong case for increasing financial support for our students as we recognise sometimes the hardest part of learning is the financial commitment involved. We will look to the SFC to support college students as we seek to move towards a fairer system of support for them."

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