

Press Release

2 December 2009

Edinburgh School of Business

Linda McTavish, Convener of Scotland's Colleges Principals' Convention said:

'For a long time, Scotland's Colleges has held concerns about the actions of unscrupulous individuals operating bogus colleges. We first became aware of students facing problems at the Edinburgh School of Business when we were contacted by more than 50 students making serious claims about the quality of education provided by the Business School.

Scotland's Colleges understands that Edinburgh School of Business claims to be offering courses that are accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and other awarding bodies. They also claim to have links with universities in Scotland and other parts of the UK. Scotland's Colleges expects that all awarding bodies should have the necessary systems in place to ensure that high quality education is provided by the private providers they are accrediting, particularly those recruiting students from overseas.

The students approached Scotland's Colleges after Edinburgh School of Business was removed from the UK Border Agency's Register of Tier 4 sponsors (approved education providers). Their claims were varied in nature and were considered to be of such seriousness that we arranged for these students to meet with advisers who had experience of dealing with such matters.

Scotland's Colleges believe it is essential that students coming from overseas to study in Scotland receive a high quality educational experience that reflects well on this country. At present, we are concerned that there are not sufficient controls in place to ensure this is the case.'