



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 January 2009

Commenting on the Scottish Liberal Democrats' report "*Scotland's Colleges - Closing their doors*", Linda McTavish, Convener of Scotland's Colleges' Principal Convention, said:

"The economic difficulties faced across Scotland in 2009 had many effects on the college sector. The recession placed a greater demand on college places than ever before, due to unemployment, and the need for those in employment to up-skill and re-skill. This increased the number of applicants for college places which is to be expected when our country slides into recession. The Scottish Government responded to this increased demand when it announced an extra £28.1 million for colleges in June 2009.

We welcome the Scottish Liberal Democrats acknowledgement of the continuing importance Scotland's colleges have in helping our country out of recession and back into growth. Their report is a useful contribution to the debate on how resources can best be used to assist those most in need.

The Principals of Scotland's colleges fully expect the demand on places to continue to rise this year. We will gratefully accept any further support the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council are able to offer, so colleges can continue to increase the places and courses available to students."

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