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MEDIA STATEMENT

Response to Scottish Funding Council Grant Allocation for 2011-2012

Linda McTavish, Convenor of Scotland's Colleges' Principals' Convention, commented:
"Scottish colleges welcome publication of the Scottish Funding Council grants letter which details colleges' share of an overall indicative budget in the 2011-12 academic year.

At a time of economic difficulties increasing numbers of Scots are turning to Scotland's colleges to access the high quality learning and development opportunities offered right across the country. SFC should be targeting funding at teaching and student support and scaling back small initiatives to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.

This is clearly a tough budget but it is helpful to receive an early indication from SFC of the extent of cuts colleges are likely to be facing in 2011-2012. We encourage the Scottish Government to outline more detail expected in funding beyond the next academic year and extend the indicative budget to the end of the current spending review up to 2014-15.

We are pleased that there will be increased funding for student support as it is crucial to make sure that the particular needs of college students are reflected in any new funding settlement for Higher Education in Scotland. In the college sector demand for student support exceeds supply, particularly at a time when the average student profile is changing."

We welcome the cut of 25% in SFC strategic funds and look for similar reductions in spending on SFC administration."

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For more information, contact:

Emma Megaughin, Halogen Communications, (T) 0131 202 0120 (F) 0131 225 6757 (E)
emma@halogencom.com