

I welcome this report's recognition that Scotland's colleges are in better financial health, exceeding learning targets and student satisfaction is even higher than last year.

This progress is supported by significant Scottish Government investment of more than £7 billion since 2007, including a near 10% real terms increase this financial year. Over the same period, we have invested more than £730 million in college estates and are currently developing an investment plan for Scotland's learning estate, more details of which will be announced later this year. In the meantime, the Scottish Funding Council will continue to work with colleges to further improve their financial planning.

We are already working with colleges to raise attainment through, for example, our national improvement programme and increased grants and bursaries for students from the lowest income families. More students from deprived backgrounds are completing college courses and this report highlights the importance of colleges ensuring people have ongoing support throughout their studies so they can fulfil their potential