

## Fol document 1

**From:** Alastair Sim <alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk>

**Sent:** 25 September 2020 08:21

**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Phone call with University Principals and the First Minister

[redacted]

Also:

Gerry McCormac, Principal, University of Stirling.

If asked, he'll be happy as Convener of Universities Scotland to say a few introductory words about how university leaders are committed to addressing the issues around coronavirus in the student population.

Thanks

Alastair

**From:** Alastair Sim

**Sent:** 25 September 2020 07:58

**To:** [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)

**Cc:** [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot); [Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot); [redacted];

[MinisterFEHES@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterFEHES@gov.scot)

**Subject:** RE: Phone call with University Principals and the First Minister

Thanks [redacted]

I'm also now expecting:

Julian Jones (Deputy Principal, Heriot Watt University)

Pamela Gillies (Principal, Glasgow Caledonian University)

Steve Olivier (Principal, Robert Gordon University).

And at Universities Scotland level as well as myself [redacted] ([redacted]) will listen in and possibly David Lott (Deputy Director).

Many thanks,

Alastair

**From:** [redacted] > On Behalf Of [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)

**Sent:** 25 September 2020 07:54

**To:** Alastair Sim <[alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot); [Colin.McAllister@gov.scot](mailto:Colin.McAllister@gov.scot); [redacted];  
[MinisterFEHES@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterFEHES@gov.scot); [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** RE: Phone call with University Principals and the First Minister

Morning Alistair,

Relevant dial-in details for passing to Principals below;

[redacted]  
[redacted]

Grateful also if you could ask that participants are on the line circa 5 mins prior to 10.30 – I will also dial in early and do a quick roll call prior to the First Minister joining the call.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

[redacted]

**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister**  
**Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | 0131 244 7515



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

**FirstMinister.gov.scot**

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**From:** [redacted] > **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** 24 September 2020 19:10

**To:** Alastair Sim <[alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk)>; First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>; [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Phone call with University Principals and the First Minister

Alastair,

Grateful to you for confirming this and the names so quickly.

We will issue the number and relevant passcodes first thing tomorrow. I would be really grateful if you were able to pass these on to the Principals please.

At this stage I don't think there is anything other than the general issues we are currently facing to be on the agenda but if that changes we will let you know as soon as possible tomorrow morning,

Many thanks again.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [redacted]

M: [redacted]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

FirstMinister.gov.scot

Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba

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Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** Alastair Sim <[alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk)>

**Sent:** 24 September 2020 18:58

**To:** First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>; [redacted]>

**Subject:** RE: Phone call with University Principals and the First Minister

Dear [redacted],

So far the following Principals have said they can participate at 10.30-11.00:

Sally Mapstone, St Andrews  
Paul Grice, Queen Margaret University  
Susan Stewart, Open University in Scotland  
Pater Mathieson, University of Edinburgh  
Jeff Sharkey, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Craig Mahoney, University of the West of Scotland  
Andrea Nolan, Edinburgh Napier University  
Penny Macbeth, Glasgow School of Art  
Anton Muscatelli, University of Glasgow  
George Boyne, University of Aberdeen  
Crichton Lang, University of the Highland and Islands

Plus one Deputy Principal:

Veena O'Halloran, University of Strathclyde

I'd also like to take part.

We may get a few more, I'll let you know if we do.

If you give me the dial-in details do you want me to circulate them to the Universities Scotland participants?

Are there any particular agenda points you'd like me to alert members to, over and above the general issue of the challenges of managing the safe start of the academic year?

Many thanks for enabling this meeting,

Alastair

**From:** Alastair Sim  
**Sent:** 24 September 2020 17:40  
**To:** [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)  
**Cc:** [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot); [redacted]>  
**Subject:** RE: Phone call with University Principals and the First Minister

Thanks [redacted], I'm sure we'd get a good number of them to clear their diaries to speak with the FM at 10.30, I'll let you know as soon as I can this evening who's able to make that.

Please thank the FM for her support for the university sector through some challenging days.

Best,

Alastair

**Alastair Sim**  
**Director, Universities Scotland**

[redacted]  
[alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk)

**From:** [redacted]> **On Behalf Of** [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** 24 September 2020 17:32  
**To:** Alastair Sim <[alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:alastair@universities-scotland.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot); [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Phone call with University Principals and the First Minister

Dear Alastair,

As discussed with [redacted], grateful if you could please confirm if it is at all possible for a call to take place tomorrow between the First Minister and the University Principals. Provisionally, the First Minister is able to make 10.30am although we could arrange a more convenient time in the afternoon if that is not feasible.

We appreciate that not all Principals will not be able to attend. Grateful if you could please confirm this is suitable and provide names of who will be on the call. We will then provide the dial in details.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

DPS/First Minister of Scotland

[redacted]

## Fol document 2

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education  
and Science

T: 0300 244 4000  
E:scottish.ministers@gov.scot

16 September 2020

### **CORONAVIRUS(COVID-19): The New Academic Term**

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to thank you for the efforts you and your teams have made to prepare for the start of the new academic year, and to stress the need for vigilance and action to keep the virus under control.

I know that colleges, universities and accommodation providers have been working tirelessly to ensure the safest possible environment for staff and students. I want to express my gratitude to you for this: your collective and collaborative approach throughout the Covid-19 pandemic has been greatly appreciated.

However, as you know, the virus continues to pose a significant threat to public health. In recent weeks there has been a significant rise in the number of positive cases in Scotland and internationally. We have seen some cases amongst the staff of colleges and universities and now in the student population. We therefore cannot be complacent. The revised [guidance for universities, colleges and student accommodation providers](#) published on 1 September 2020 sets clear expectations and practical approaches to public health and health and safety that will support institutions in ensuring the safest possible environment for students and staff.

We also recognise the significant challenges and sensitivities in relation to compliance, particularly around gatherings and parties including in student accommodation. Nevertheless, this poses one of the biggest risks of transmission. I know that many students are behaving responsibly, but it is clearly essential that everyone follows the rules that have been put in place to protect themselves and others.

We need to do all that we can to re-inforce positive behaviours and minimise transmission. I recognise your considerable efforts to provide students and staff with information about how to keep themselves and others safe during this period, and I am very grateful for your continued support in promoting Scottish Government information campaigns - including FACTS, Test and Protect, We are Scotland and Protect Scotland – and the recent letter from Scotland’s most senior clinicians on when to seek a Covid-19 test.

I am however setting out some further requests as follows:

- That you proactively promote the new contact app Protect Scotland, for example by making downloading the app part of students' registration or induction process – and providing my official [redacted] ([redacted]) with an update on what you are doing by Monday 21 September.
- That your communications to students and staff continue to make it clear that they must comply with the law on social gatherings, local lockdown restrictions and other public health measures. These measures are designed to keep the academic and local communities safe.
- That you have processes in place to ensure compliance with public health measures in particular social gatherings, quarantine, self isolation procedures, and, for those experiencing symptoms of Covid-19, to arrange a test.
- That you undertake frequent reviews of your mitigation practices and risk assessments to ensure that these are operating effectively, and improve them as required.
- That you have clear plans and processes in place in the event of an outbreak with appropriate contingency plans.
- That, in addition to notifying public health contacts as set out in the guidance and [Sector Advice Card](#), you continue to liaise with the Scottish Government on cases and outbreaks so that we can co-ordinate any necessary action.

I would also like to give you an update following my letter on the 18 August where I asked for sight of action plans on mitigations around various aspects of the new academic terms and outbreak management.

These plans were reviewed using a checklist devised with the aid of public health professionals. There were clear strengths in some areas with further work required to support aspects around student accommodation, supporting students to comply with quarantine and self isolation, and processes on outbreak management.

I realise these were a point of time and, as ever with this situation, much has changed including publication of updated sectoral guidance and a number of workshops on mitigations, outbreak, surveillance and this week on student accommodation. I would however draw your attention to the snapshots of good practice drawn from these returns listed in Annex A and ask that you consider these. In closing, can I re-iterate that we are all in this together, and our collective response to this pandemic has highlighted the power of collaboration across this crucial sector which is something I very much hope to see continue into the new academic year.

I fully appreciate how difficult this situation has been for each and every institution across the country and I can reassure you that everything will remain under close and constant review as the new academic year unfolds.

I wish you, your staff, and your students all the very best for the new academic year.

*Richard Lochhead*

RICHARD LOCHHEAD

## Fol document 3

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education  
and Science

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

18th August 2020

Dear Principal,

### **Start of the next academic year**

As you know the return of students under Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's route map, in a blended learning model, is a key milestone in our aim to mitigate the broader harms to our society from Covid-19.

We also know that having successfully suppressed the virus in Scotland we must do everything possible to avoid seeing the kind of resurgence which has occurred in other countries. Additionally, we have seen increasing evidence of substantial spread amongst young people, in many cases as the result of failure to respect the rules. Strong compliance with rules and advice is crucial as we move forward and it is vital we work together to support this.

I am sure that you will also recognise that bringing together large numbers of people from a range of different parts of Scotland, plus the rest of the United Kingdom and overseas, over a very short period of time presents a key risk to further transmission of the virus. It is seen by the First Minister and CMO as their main concern for this phase. I know that you are working hard to draw up your own plans to manage the risks associated with students' arrival at your institutions over the coming weeks and to provide them with a positive learning experience whilst mitigating the risk of local outbreaks.

I wish to thank you for the collective and collaborative approach in which we have progressed the development and implementation of mitigations to reduce risk. Continuing to work in this manner and build on the significant progress to date remains vital with the focus on mitigations, outbreak management and communication (students and workforce).

Given how crucial the next stage is for all of us we need clarity of intention and plans. This is to provide additional reassurances to Ministers that there are clear plans, which are being developed in a transparent manner, and which will allow further discussion on where additional clarity may be required.

To aid in this I would be grateful that by the 24<sup>th</sup> August you forward to [redacted] your actions plans setting out the steps you have taken which cover the following points:

- procedures in place for students from non-exempt countries to ensure respect of quarantine requirements
- procedures in place for students who need to self-isolate
- plans on processes to support contact tracing
- plans to minimise the number of people on campus at any one time
- procedures in place to ensure maximum communication and understanding of Covid-19 requirements among students, staff and visitors and any compliance mechanisms you are considering.

We will examine these internally with our public health experts to identify gaps, good practice and areas of shared learning and provide sectoral wide comment. It is important to note that we will be considering your proposals against any relevant public health advice or guidance; we will not be assessing compliance with health and safety legislation or other legal duties. If you are in any doubt about the extent of your responsibilities, you should take independent legal advice or contact the Health and Safety Executive.

We will also host a workshop tailored to discussing strengths, gaps and weaknesses of these plans in the week of the 31<sup>st</sup> August and will ask that either you or a senior representative from your organisation attends this event.

We have also been clear that in mitigating broader harms by gradually opening elements of Scottish society, the increased opportunities for transmission in Phase 3 mean we must also focus on containing sporadic outbreaks. While our emphasis is on prevention we need to contain outbreaks if they do occur.

In the unfortunate event of the occurrence of the infection on campus and any outbreaks it is crucial that institutes are clear what action to take. To that effect we request that you provide us with your action plans/procedures to respond to outbreaks, including relationships with local public health teams, by the 24<sup>th</sup> August. The Covid-19 workbook (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-covid-19-workbook-2020>) provides further information including key contacts which will be relevant. Again we will examine your responses internally with the assistance of our public health experts and we will offer a further workshop week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September and again will be seeking nominations for attendees.

We also request that your action plans and action plans/procedures to respond to outbreaks, include your halls of residence, and that you liaise with providers of purpose built student accommodation where appropriate e.g. where nomination agreements are in place, who will also be asked to provide these.

We will also be urgently revisiting the Safer Workplaces guidance for colleges and universities and purpose built student accommodation. Several different factors have changed since these were first issued in June and July and my officials will be in touch with Universities Scotland to discuss further as well as sectoral advice cards.

There are a few further points I would like to highlight:

- Public health advice: We now have a dedicated representative of the Directors of Public Health who will be able to act as a direct contact for advice to the sector at a national level.
- Testing: Thank you for engagement to date with policy officials, later this week we expect to be able to share the position agreed with Ministers.

- Contact tracing app: It is our expectation that this will be available relatively soon and we would appreciate your promotion of this app within your workforce and with students.

Communication: This is a vital aspect for both students and staff. We have established a communication group with participants drawn from a range of organisations to promote and support Covid safety. I am aware that there is significant activity already underway as well as a number of national campaigns that will be utilised. This communication group will help further the promotion of key messaging.

I wish to thank you again for your continued support and look forward to working together as we continue in this unprecedented times in forthcoming months.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Lochhead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'd'.

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

## Fol document 4

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education  
and Science

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

9 July 2020

Dear colleagues,

### **COVID-19 - FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION MAKING: SCOTLAND'S ROUTE MAP THROUGH AND OUT OF THE CRISIS: PHASE 3**

Following my letters of 21 May and 18 June 2020, in which I set out the four phases of the route map by which the Scottish Government aims to ease the current lockdown restrictions, I write to update you on plans for [entering into Phase 3](#).

As the First Minister has set out in Parliament today, the substantial progress that we have collectively made in Scotland, by following the relevant rules and guidance, has enabled us to meet the conditions to progress to Phase 3.

It is important to recognise, however, that the virus has not gone away. As we have seen in other parts of the world, when given the chance, it can re-establish itself quickly. As in Phase 2, we are introducing the changes over Phase 3 in stages. What that means for colleges, universities and community learning and development is summarised below.

These activities are subject to adherence to public health measures as set out in the relevant guidance, including physical distancing for which 2 metres remains the default. Institutions should continue to plan for the resumption of activities on that basis.

As we enter Phase 3 of the route map, exemptions will be considered for specific sectors and settings where agreed additional mitigations must be put in place. This would allow organisations in relevant sectors, if they choose, to operate with a 1 metre distance on condition that agreed mitigations, fully recorded in risk assessments, are implemented.

We are now looking at whether such an exemption may be applied to colleges and universities, and community learning environments such as for small tutorials or specific practical subjects but until that consideration has been made, 2 metre distancing remains the default and will remain so if it is decided that an exemption cannot be made.

I know that my officials have been liaising with Scottish Funding Council, Universities Scotland, Colleges Scotland, CLD stakeholders, trade union and student representatives about this and we will provide an update on this work in the coming weeks.

**From 13 July:**

- Time-sensitive mandatory or regulated skills assessments that are essential to the completion of Modern Apprenticeship qualifications or to comply with a legal obligation can resume in colleges
- Face-to-face youth work can resume outdoors

**From 22 July:**

- Universities and colleges can have a phased return with a blended model of remote learning and limited on campus learning where this is a priority
- Safe restart of university and college halls of residence and Purpose Built Student Accommodation in line with guidance to be published shortly
- Community Learning and Development activity including adult learning in line with published guidance

The various changes that are due to come into effect in Phase 3 will result in larger numbers of people moving around and coming together, giving the virus more opportunities to spread. There is a risk of outbreaks and while we should strive to avoid them, we must also prepare for them and our Test & Protect system will help us to contain them. Staying safe and keeping others safe is as important as ever which is why, for example, we have made face coverings mandatory on public transport and in shops.

The measures announced today are, of course, dependent on us keeping the virus under control. As the First Minister has made clear, we will not hesitate to re-impose restrictions if we consider it necessary to halt the spread of the virus and save lives.

Eliminating the virus as far as possible now - ahead of the almost inevitable challenges we will face come winter - remains our objective. The Deputy First Minister and I will continue to work in partnership with our college, university and community learning sectors as we collectively strive towards this goal and emerge from the crisis as strongly as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Lochhead". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

## Fol document 5

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education  
and Science

E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

7 August 2020

Dear colleagues,

### **COVID-19 – CHANGES TO ADVICE ON FACE COVERINGS**

As the First Minister has set out in her lunchtime briefing today, further measures are being introduced to help us to continue to make progress against the spread of Covid-19.

Staying safe and keeping others safe remains vital, which is why we have extended the mandatory use of face coverings to additional public places indoors, such as libraries, places of worship and museums, from tomorrow. Full details of the revised guidance on face coverings will be available shortly on the Scottish Government website. There is no evidence to suggest there might be a benefit outdoors from wearing a face mask unless in a crowded situation.

The main impact of these changes on universities and colleges will be the inclusion of libraries and reading rooms where a face covering must be worn.

This expansion is a sharp reminder to us all that the virus is still very much with us. Physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene remain the most important and effective measures we can all do to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The wearing of face coverings should not be considered as an alternative to those key precautions.

The various changes that have been implemented across Phase 3 does of course result in larger numbers of people moving around and coming together, giving the virus more opportunities to spread. I am conscious that this applies to the restart of college, university and community learning and development activities.

The sectoral guidance ([www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/](http://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/)) has been revised to include important information on managing outbreaks and our Test & Protect system. The additional guidance on face coverings will be added shortly.

The measures announced today are aimed at helping eliminate the virus as far as possible. The Deputy First Minister and I are extremely grateful for all your hard work and support in ensuring that our colleges, universities, halls of residence and Purpose Built Student Accommodation as well as community learning and development remain as safe as possible for staff and learners alike.

*Richard Lochhead*

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

## Fol document 6

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education  
and Science



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

Government

E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

9 July 2020

Dear colleagues,

### **COVID-19 - FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION MAKING: SCOTLAND'S ROUTE MAP THROUGH AND OUT OF THE CRISIS: PHASE 3**

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It is important to recognise, however, that the virus has not gone away. As we have seen in other parts of the world, when given the chance, it can re-establish itself quickly.

As in Phase 2, we are introducing the changes over Phase 3 in stages. What that means for colleges, universities and community learning and development is summarised below.

These activities are subject to adherence to public health measures as set out in the relevant guidance, including physical distancing for which 2 metres remains the default. Institutions should continue to plan for the resumption of activities on that basis.

As we enter Phase 3 of the route map, exemptions will be considered for specific sectors and settings where agreed additional mitigations must be put in place. This would allow organisations in relevant sectors, if they choose, to operate with a 1 metre distance on condition that agreed mitigations, fully recorded in risk assessments, are implemented.

We are now looking at whether such an exemption may be applied to colleges and universities, and community learning environments such as for small tutorials or specific practical subjects but until that consideration has been made, 2 metre

distancing remains the default and will remain so if it is decided that an exemption cannot be made.

I know that my officials have been liaising with Scottish Funding Council, Universities Scotland, Colleges Scotland, CLD stakeholders, trade union and student representatives about this and we will provide an update on this work in the coming weeks.

**From 13 July:**

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- Community Learning and Development activity including adult learning in line with published guidance

The various changes that are due to come into effect in Phase 3 will result in larger numbers of people moving around and coming together, giving the virus more opportunities to spread. There is a risk of outbreaks and while we should strive to avoid them, we must also prepare for them and our Test & Protect system will help us to contain them. Staying safe and keeping others safe is as important as ever which is why, for example, we have made face coverings mandatory on public transport and in shops.

The measures announced today are, of course, dependent on us keeping the virus under control. As the First Minister has made clear, we will not hesitate to re-impose restrictions if we consider it necessary to halt the spread of the virus and save lives.

Eliminating the virus as far as possible now - ahead of the almost inevitable challenges we will face come winter - remains our objective. The Deputy First Minister and I will continue to work in partnership with our college, university and community learning sectors as we collectively strive towards this goal and emerge from the crisis as strongly as possible.

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

## Fol document 7

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education  
and Science



Scottish Go  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

vernment

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

College and university Principals

18 June 2020

Dear Principal,

### **COVID-19 - FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION MAKING: SCOTLAND'S ROUTE MAP THROUGH AND OUT OF THE CRISIS: PHASE 2**

Following my letter of 21 May 2020, in which I set out the four phases of the route map by which the Scottish Government aims to ease the current lockdown restrictions, I write to update you on plans for [entering into Phase 2](#).

Under the changes announced by the First Minister in the Scottish Parliament today, it remains the case that the COVID crisis remains inherently uncertain and complex, and our understanding of it continues to evolve.

The current status of the epidemic in Scotland means that the changes in Phase 2 will be introduced in stages, rather than all at once. What that means for colleges and universities is summarised below.

These activities are subject to adherence to public health measures as set out in the relevant guidance, including physical distancing. It is important to emphasise that we expect only a small number of people to be on campus during Phase 2 and that remote working remains the default position for those who can.

#### **From 22 June:**

- college and university staff can return to make essential preparations for restart in Phase 3. This includes:

- preparation of buildings, the adjustment of teaching spaces, walkways and student accommodation as well as research facilities
- provisions for specialist testing and services to support operations, including access for contractors
- work onsite to prepare teaching materials, including digital content (e.g. filming lab demonstrations) and arrangements for their delivery
- allowing staff to access facilities to collect materials to support continued home working, eg. teaching and research materials

**From 29 June:**

- as described in the route map published on 21 May and updated today, non-office based workplaces including lab and research facilities can resume, with on-campus university research also restarting. This expands on the essential COVID work which has been ongoing through lockdown and Phase 1. Phase 2 activity includes:
  - research libraries and research archives but not wider library based activity (except preparation of facilities as outlined above). The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 will be amended to clearly distinguish between research archives/libraries and other forms of library activity which will not be considered further until Phase 3
- home moves are permitted. This applies to students seeking to move out of student accommodation or students seeking to return to accommodation to collect belongings.

Institutes with construction work underway may find it relevant that the construction industry can implement the remaining phases of its sectoral plan from 22 June.

I know that my officials are working with Scottish Funding Council, Universities Scotland, Colleges Scotland, trades union and student representatives to prepare supporting guidance in preparation for a phased return in colleges and universities.

As I stated in my previous letter, the wellbeing of college and university students and staff, along with the sustainability of our colleges and universities is of paramount importance.

The Deputy First Minister and I will continue to work in partnership with both sectors to ensure that Scotland's colleges and universities emerge from this crisis as strongly as possible.

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

Copy:

Shona Struthers – Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland

Alastair Sim – Director, Universities Scotland

[redacted]– UNISON

[redacted]– UNISON

[redacted] – UCU

[redacted] – EIS-FELA

[redacted] – Unite the Union