

Designating Colleges as Regional Colleges and Assigning Colleges to Regional Strategic Bodies

Analysis of Single College Region Consultation

DESIGNATING COLLEGES AS REGIONAL COLLEGES AND ASSIGNING COLLEGES TO REGIONAL STRATEGIC BODIES

ANALYSIS OF SINGLE COLLEGE REGION CONSULTATION

Consultation paper

As part of the process of implementing the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013, we published a consultation paper [Designating Colleges as Regional Colleges and Assigning Colleges to Regional Strategic Bodies](#). The consultation was split into two parts: the closing date for comments on single college regions was 22 November 2013; the closing date for comments on multi-college regions was 17 January 2014.

This is the analysis of the responses to responses to the questions about single college regions only.

Who responded?

Of the 12 responses received about the plans for single college regions:

- 1 was from a prospective regional college (North East Scotland College)
- 7 were from prospective assigned colleges (all 3 existing Lanarkshire colleges; 2 in Glasgow and 2 in the Highlands and Islands)
- 2 local authorities (both from single college regions)
- Colleges Scotland
- UNISON.

What did they say?

Overall: **Supportive of plans** to designate the 10 colleges as regional colleges and the timing of designation (March 2014).

No equality issues were identified that specifically arise from the designation of the colleges – UNISON raised issues relevant to wider policy issues.

	Question 1 – Designation of regional colleges	Question 2 – Date of designation (March)	Question 3 – Equality issues
Glasgow Kelvin College	Support	(Yes)	Insufficient evidence to comment
West Lothian Council	Support	(Yes)	No issues (in relation to West Lothian College); not in a position to comment on other colleges

North Highland College	Fully support	(Yes) Assume the affected colleges are in agreement	None that know of
Scottish Borders Council	Support	(Yes)	No comment
UNISON	<p>Impossible to comment on how effective these new structure will without appointments guidance.</p> <p>Concerned about management influence on governing bodies and lack of board member contact with staff.</p> <p>Disappointed no trade union representation on boards; staff members should be better supported essential that there are appropriate staff governance standards in place. Governing bodies should be required to meet trade unions and student representatives regularly.</p> <p>Concerned about travel and local delivery.</p>	<p>(nil) Accepts that colleges will now be designated as new regional colleges.</p> <p>Staffing issues have to be resolved as part of this change so the new bodies can focus properly on delivery.</p>	<p>Concerned that equalities impact of many of the changes taking place in further education has not been fully investigated.</p> <p>Board membership must reflect the diversity of the communities that the regional boards serve. Guidance for appointments to boards must ensure that this is the case.</p> <p>Regional Boards must take their Public Sector Equality Duties seriously and ensure that Equality Impact Assessments are core to decision making in colleges</p>
Colleges Scotland	Content	(Yes) Desirable date to aim - ahead of the allocation for the FY 2014/15 and allow time for planning towards the Academic Year.	<p>Not aware of any equality issues that arise from the designation of the stated incorporated colleges as regional colleges</p> <p>As part of the move</p>

		Date less important than ensuring that all the necessary preparations have taken place to ensure that the regional colleges understand and can undertake their new duties effectively.	toward populating the boards of the new regional colleges, important that colleges be supported in achieving diversity on boards. Welcome the views of the Scottish Government on how it will support the sector in that ambition.
North East Scotland College	Agree	Sensible	Not as far as aware
New College Lanarkshire	Supportive	(Yes) Supportive	Do not believe there are any equality issues raised by these plans
South Lanarkshire College	Supportive	(Yes) Supportive	Not aware of any such issues .
Coatbridge College	Supportive	(Yes) Supportive	Do not believe there are any equality issues raised by these plans
Perth College	Colleges in question will understand the implications of their designation; their views should be given the greatest weight. Perth College would not wish to dilute the affected colleges' response by giving an opinion on another region or locality and therefore wishes to give a nil return, to enable the appropriate college voices to be heard.	(Yes) Colleges in question the only bodies that will be able to give a realistic assessment of the proposed timescale. Scottish Government should listen to the views of these colleges.	Assume that any equalities issues arising from mergers etc will have been dealt with appropriately by the Boards and management of the respective colleges

Glasgow Clyde College	<p>Those colleges identified should, as previously planned and publicised, be designated as Regional Colleges</p> <p>Must be highlighted that there is no coherent underpinning rationale for identifying regions hence the position exists where we have some extremely large regional colleges and others which are smaller than assigned colleges.</p>	<p>(nil) Regional Leads have not yet been duly appointed through the Public Appointments process and therefore due process must take precedence over the timetable as described.</p>	<p>No comments.</p>
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Outcome of consultation

Having considered the responses received, Ministers are proceeding with the designation of colleges in single college regions as planned. Specifically, Ministers have made an order that designates colleges in single college regions as regional colleges with effect from 3 March 2014¹. The Designation of Regional Colleges (Scotland) Order 2014 is available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>.

¹ [The Post-16 Education \(Scotland\) Act 2013 \(Commencement No. 2\) Order 2013, SSI 2013/348](#) brought the necessary order-making powers to designate colleges as regional into force on 13 January 2014.



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ISBN: 978-1-78412-223-2 (web only)

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St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
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Produced for the Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland
DPPAS22965 (01/14)

Published by the Scottish Government, January 2014

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