

Our ref: 254278835

23 February 2021

Ronnie Smith
Chair
New College Lanarkshire
Motherwell Campus
1 Enterprise Way
Motherwell ML1 2TX

Dear Ronnie,

Code of Good Governance: triennial externally facilitated Board effectiveness review

I am writing in response to Diane McGill's email of 20 January 2021 to myself and colleagues describing the way in which the Board has satisfied itself in relation to the above requirement set out in the Code of Good Governance.

In addition to the usual self-evaluation carried out annually by the Board, which forms the basis of the statement of compliance with the Code in the corporate governance statement in the College's annual accounts, several external governance-related reviews were carried out during 2018-19:

- A review of corporate governance by the College's internal auditors.
- A review of the operation of the Regional Strategic Body (RSB) conducted by an independent third party.
- SFC's review of the performance of the RSB.

While these reviews may not have explicitly considered the Board's compliance with the principles of the Code, I would expect them to have covered all the key aspects of the College's governance structures and processes. On that basis, it is unlikely that a further external review of governance would identify any significant new areas for

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improvement, and I would support the Board's view that such a review at this juncture is therefore not necessary.

As you know, SFC has recommended to the Scottish Government that the RSB arrangements in Lanarkshire be dismantled, and if Ministers accept this recommendation, there will be important changes to regional governance as a result. I expect that the College will carry out an externally facilitated review of governance once these revised governance structures and processes have been put in place.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Fairbairn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Martin Fairbairn
Chief Operating Officer

cc Diane McGill, Secretary to the Board, New College Lanarkshire