Graduate Endowment Abolition (Scotland) Bill

Association of Scotland’s Colleges (ASC) welcomes the opportunity to give evidence on the proposed abolition of the graduate endowment fee. ASC is the policy and representative body for Scotland’s forty-three colleges of further and higher education.

ASC supports the abolition of the graduate endowment fee, which will benefit higher education students in Scotland’s universities by bringing them into line with current arrangements for the more than 25,000 full time higher education students in Scotland’s Colleges. It is important, however, that this should not be at the expense of the resources available for investment in Scotland’s colleges and universities, which must be funded at a level which enables them to provide their students with a learning experience which matches the best international standards.

ASC is aware of the statement given in the Scottish Government’s consultation document published in July that there “will be no implications for university funding, which will continue to come from existing budgets”. We would also seek assurance that there will be no implication for college funding, including that provided for student support, if Parliament passes legislation to abolish the graduate endowment.

Within current constrained budgets, it is crucial that colleges are able to continue to provide an excellent learning experience for their students, and to enhance the high quality teaching which makes such vital contributions to Scotland’s people, businesses, communities and the economy.