During my appearance before the Equal Opportunities Committee on 28 September I committed to providing the Committee with further information on two specific areas.

The first of these was to provide the Committee with a copy of the SCQF Scoping Study for the Recognition of Skills, Learning and Qualifications of Migrant Workers and Refugees which I am pleased to enclose with this letter.

The second was to provide the Committee with further information on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) funding.

Regarding the ESOL funding for the period 2007-11, this is in addition to the resources that are already available to local authorities through the block grant and to colleges as Student Units of Measurement. Some providers also apply for and receive European funding.

The methodology for distributing these additional funds is based on the latest research and meetings with the two main providers, colleges and local authorities. Since 2007 this has been as follows:

10% - to fund technical and professional developments retained by Scottish Government; and the remainder split;
60% - to colleges (via Scottish Funding Council); and
40% - to local authority Community Learning and Development Partnerships.

I hope this is helpful.

ALEX NEIL