
Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 10 June 2024
Paper Title	Ministerial Statement on Reform of Glasgow Regional Strategic Body
Agenda Item	8
Paper Number	BM4-C
Responsible Officer	Janie McCusker, Chair & Martin Boyle, Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Discussion

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Graeme Dey, Minister for Higher and Further Education, and Minister for Veterans, has confirmed in writing the current status of the review of the Glasgow Regional Strategic Body, and confirmed his intent to commence a 12-week consultation on the reform of GCRB.
- 1.2 That letter is provided to board for information.
- 1.3 In addition, the Minister provided a meeting with GCRB board members and GCRB staff on Wednesday 5 June.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Board is invited to **note** the content of the Minister's letter of 16 May 2024.
- 2.2 Board is invited to **consider** the implications of the impending consultation period and **note** that the consultation information will be shared as soon as it is published.
- 2.2 Board is invited to **note** that there will be a session for board members only at the end of today's agenda, and also that work has commenced to ensure GCRB has appropriate HR support, advice and process in place to support the Chair and staff. This element has already been considered by the Nominations and Resources Committee.

3. Risk and Compliance Analysis

- 3.1** The GCRB Risk Register is updated for this board meeting to provide consideration of the current risk context of the review.

4. Financial and Resource Analysis

- 4.1** Reform or removal of the GCRB carries several implications in terms of finance and resources which are considered in the Risk Register and also in on-going discussion with Scottish Funding Council. Further consideration of implications may be considered during the board member session to allow advance scenario planning to commence.

5. Equalities Implications

- 5.1** Reform or removal of GCRB has equalities implications in terms of the appropriate management of staff. This will be included in the provision of required HR support for the organisation.

6. Learner Implications

- 6.1** There are potential longer-term implications for learners depending on the structures put in place to replace GCRB. The implications of this continue to be discussed and considered in collaboration with SFC and Scottish Government.

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

FAO
Janie McCusker
Chair of GCRB
(by email)
janie.mccusker@gcrb.ac.uk

16 May 2024

Dear Janie,

REFORM OF REGIONAL STRATEGIC BODIES – GLASGOW COLLEGES' REGIONAL BOARD

Thank you for making the time to speak to me today. I agreed to follow-up in writing so that you are able to share this and to provide reassurances to the GCRB staff.

Firstly, and as discussed earlier today, I want to put on record my thanks to you during your term as Chair of the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board (GCRB) and to the staff of GCRB. I am grateful for the positive work that has been delivered and supported through the GCRB to improve regional collaboration in the Glasgow area. I also appreciate the valuable contribution that you and the GCRB staff continue to make supporting the Scottish Government's reform programme and efforts working with Glasgow's colleges. As part of the reform work, we are now at a point where there is a need for change as we consider the future needs of the college sector.

I am now in a position to provide an update on plans to progress with reform of Regional Strategic Bodies within the Glasgow and Lanarkshire college regions.

The first steps in this process will begin with the launch of a consultation, across the sector and beyond, on plans to dissolve the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board and The Lanarkshire Board and seek new collaborative arrangements.

In reaching this decision, we have been clear that any changes to existing structures and processes will not weaken oversight or accountability of the Glasgow and Lanarkshire colleges.

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I recognise that today's announcement will have been unsettling for you and the staff of GCRB. I therefore want to reiterate my position on the principles of Fair Work. I would also ask you to pass on my reassurance to your staff that I expect them to be treated fairly throughout the period of consultation and beyond and ask that you and the Board do all you can to support staff through this period of transition.

This consultation will go live in the coming weeks and will run for 12 weeks. A full analysis of responses will be published in due course. We will listen to the feedback from the consultation and use it to inform the development of plans to reform Regional Strategic Bodies within both the Glasgow and Lanarkshire college regions.

It is important to highlight that change of this magnitude will not happen overnight and we recognise the importance of working with you and the Board, your staff, the SFC, the regional college sector, as well as other stakeholders, to get this right.

I hope you find this update helpful, and I will inform you of the consultation launch date as soon as this has been confirmed.

Yours sincerely



GRAEME DEY MSP

Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

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