



For the future you want

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Dear Mr Shelvin

Thank you for your letter of 1 February in which you sought a response to the questions raised in relation to Edinburgh College and the National Fraud Initiative.

Firstly, can I provide reassurance to the committee that we have taken part in the current national fraud initiative and have submitted our data. Whilst it seems that not all colleges are asked to submit data Edinburgh College is committed to supporting this important initiative which relies on data across the public sector to have an impact on driving down fraud.

The position with regard to the data collection for the 2016 Audit Scotland report, which was discussed by the Committee in on 1 December, is less clear. That data for that initiative was collected in 2013 -14 and because that pre-dated my taking up post as Principal I have had to look in to the matter to try to establish the situation. I have not been able to source the correspondence to the college on that occasion. Audit Scotland have helpfully provided the generic text of the letter that went to all relevant public bodies though we cannot locate the specific request to Edinburgh College from Audit Scotland nor in our own records. I understand that this was the first year that FE colleges in Scotland were asked to participate and that only Edinburgh College and City of Glasgow college were to be asked. I am therefore unable to establish, with any certainty, who the contact was at the college and what the reason for not taking part had been.

I am grateful to you for bringing to our attention the interest the Committee has in seeking feedback on the National Fraud Initiative and I note the deadline of the 31 March for any written submissions.

Yours sincerely,

**ANNETTE BRUTON**

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