

**Minister for Higher and Further Education; and  
Minister for Veterans**  
Ministear airson Foghlam Àrd-ìre is Adhartach; agus  
Ministear airson Seann Ghaisgich  
**Graeme Dey MSP/BPA**



**Scottish Government**  
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Moira Jeffrey  
moira@sca-net.org

Our Reference: 202400404921  
Your Reference: Fine Art

11 April 2024

Dear Moira,

Thank you for writing to me on the subject of the future of the Fine Arts course at UHI Moray.

The Scottish Government recognises culture's unique contribution to society, and the valuable role of creative practitioners and cultural organisations. As set out in "A Culture Strategy for Scotland", we aim to place culture as a central consideration across all policy areas, including education.

The Scottish Government is committed to supporting colleges in their delivery of an offering to learners that is rooted in a robust understanding of local needs, as well as regional and national priorities. However colleges are responsible for their own operational decisions, including course provision, as they are best placed to respond flexibly to emerging trends at local and regional level.

We have been working with the Scottish Funding Council to understand the situation at UHI Moray and we understand that the position is that this is still at the proposal stage for consultation, including with the students, and that, as yet, no decision has been made.

We expect students to be appropriately supported by their institutions and to receive timely information about the options available to them.

Regarding the Moray Growth Deal, Regional Growth Deals are designed to align long term funding behind shared visions for regional economies, leverage additional investment, create new jobs and accelerate inclusive economic growth in each of the areas covered by the 12 Deals. All Deal funding is committed to named projects and programmes, as agreed with regional partners, and Deals are or

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will be delivered with local authorities and other regional partners, including those in the higher and further education sectors, our enterprise agencies, and the voluntary and private sectors. Since the Moray Growth Deal Full Deal agreement was signed in December 2021, officials from both Scottish and UK Governments have worked with all partners, including UHI Moray, to ensure the Deal will deliver long lasting benefits for residents, businesses and communities across Moray. Please be assured that that work continues at pace and there will be no effect on the delivery of the Moray Growth Deal due to the withdrawal of this course.

I do hope that this letter has reassured you that the Scottish Government is taking the situation at UHI Moray seriously and expects students to be supported.

Yours sincerely



**GRAEME DEY**

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