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14<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Principal

Today, I made a statement to Parliament on the Scottish Government's latest understanding of what Brexit will mean for further and higher education and to assure the Scottish Parliament and the further and higher education sectors that the Scottish Government is doing all it can to ensure our colleges and universities continue to thrive. I also stressed EU staff and students are valued members of the community in Scotland.

During my statement, I also announced further assurances to those students who may have to return to Scotland because of Brexit. The Scottish Government will guarantee student support and tuition fees to eligible students who have left Scotland to study in the EU but are forced to give up their studies abroad.

I am also seeking a meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland to ask for his support in persuading the UK Government to see sense on their proposed '*Temporary Leave to Remain Scheme*'. I will also travel to London in the coming weeks to have further dialogue with UK Ministers across the range of issues for colleges and universities.

As you may have seen we have summarised our actions across research, student and other issues in '*Brexit Action Plan for the Further and Higher Education Sector*' (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/brexit-action-plan-further-higher-education/>) .

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Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire  
Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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I am very keen to have continued dialogue as these issues related to Brexit develop. Next week, I will attend both the Brexit Forums on Colleges and Universities to continue this. I have also asked the Scottish Funding Council to host a second Brexit Summit on Further and Higher Education in April so we can collectively agree future actions to mitigate the impact of Brexit.

I would also be happy to speak to any of you individually on these issues as they affect your institutions.



**Richard Lochhead**

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