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Helen Baird
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Date: 7 September 2016
Your Ref:
Our Ref: RC/DC/CL
Enquiries to: Rob Coward Extension: 3264
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Dear Ms Baird

Review of the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance

As an organisation with close links to Higher Education Institutions in Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Review of the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance. My colleagues and I have considered the 2013 Code as requested and have formed the view that it remains broadly fit for purpose, reflecting good practice across the higher education sector and beyond. It is a well presented document, which is an accessible and helpful source of guidance for HEIs and those in governance roles.

We note that the 2013 Code is based on the UK Corporate Governance Code, which was aimed primarily at corporations listed on the London Stock Exchange. Although its provisions are broadly applicable to other organisations, including Scottish HEIs, it may be desirable if the Code were to be more sensitive to the Scottish context by making use of a broader range of reference points such as the Scottish Government's 'On Board' guidance or the Ethical Standards in Public Life framework.

One aspect of the Scottish context that might be addressed in the Code is the Scottish Ministers' aspiration to greater diversity in public life. There is a specific commitment to gender parity in the membership of Boards of Scottish Public Bodies by 2020. This ambition of greater diversity, reflecting wider society, would presumably be covered in the Main Principles.

I hope these observations are helpful and wish you well in reviewing the Code.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Lamb', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Lamb

Chief Executive



Chair: Dr Lindsay Burley
Chief Executive: Caroline Lamb