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6 November 2019

John Swinney

Thank you for your letter of 22 October regarding the proposed governance arrangements following the possible merger of Shetland College with Train Shetland and the North Atlantic Fisheries College.

I understand from your letter that that the unincorporated governance model is regarded by the university as the most appropriate for the new body to adopt, as the new institution will be more research intensive than before, given the merger with North Atlantic Fisheries College.

As you are aware the decision on which governance model to adopt is for the college and the project board to decide. This is not a matter which I, or any other minister has the power to intervene in.

However, I would expect there will still be appropriate scrutiny and accountability mechanisms through the robust governance arrangements for assigned colleges, with the Regional Strategic Body monitoring performance with reference to the fundable body criteria.

John Swinney

JOHN SWINNEY

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