

## Northern Trust

Good morning

Please see below our response as requested.

*The Northern Ireland Further Education Sector notes that the Bill provides for Departmental estimates and accounts to include the spending of NDPBs, i.e. that bodies such as the six regional colleges will be treated as being inside the Departmental boundary in terms of financial planning and reporting. To a large extent this reflects the current working practices within the FE Sector and in this respect Northern Regional College has no significant comments to make.*

*However, one point is worth highlighting: while the summary impact says the provisions of the Bill will not result in any additional costs, a requirement for full external auditing at March year-end will duplicate many audit related costs (for example audit fees, actuarial costs) for Colleges as there already exists a requirement for a full external audit at their July financial year end. This is, of course, in addition to a significant additional workload for College finance staff – any approach which includes two annual external audits should be avoided on the grounds of both value-for-money and efficiency.*

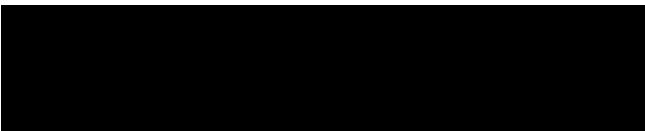
Kind regards

Ruth

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**NORTHERN**

Regional College

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