



**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01414**

### **Name of petitioner**

Dougie Deans on behalf of Unison F.E. Sector

### **Petition title**

Funding for Further Education

### **Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to reconsider its proposed cuts to the Further Education Sector of £74million over the next four academic sessions 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

### **Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

Unison Further Education reps put forward a local petition on behalf of their members and raise awareness to the Angus Community how the proposed cut aforementioned would affect the Community. We involved local press with an advertisement campaign also local councillors and MSP's. We gathered approximately 2000 signatures locally.

MSP's & Councillors contacted were Jenny Marra MSP, North East Scotland, Alison McInnes MSP, Cllr May and Cllr Murphy at Angus Council. The responses received were supportive which resulted in press coverage and visits to Angus College to meet with students and staff to discuss in more detail what these cuts would mean to the College and Community as whole.

Jenny Marra and Allison McInnes have raised the issues with Mike Russell the Education Minister at Holyrood.

### **Petition background information**

The Education Secretary has released £15 million to the F.E Sector but this is insufficient as the conditions attached are not to the benefit of the student, this extra money is to be used to rush through mergers of the Colleges. This comes under the explanation of a transformation Fund to enable Colleges to merge and collaborate more together (see The Courier 08/12/12) and support voluntary severance schemes.

As previously stated this will be to the detriment of the communities that the Colleges serve and less staff to facilitate a professional service.

In this recession the Further Education sector has a massive role to play by retraining and upgrading individuals skills.

If these proposals go ahead nationally it will reduce the F.E workforce to less than the 7% 1000 in real terms. The workforce stands at 14,900 currently and should this continued reduction continue our staff would stand at around 11,600.

Also courses would be cut giving less opportunity to all communities served by a Further Education College in Scotland. Included in these proposals is a merger of 41 Colleges into 12 Regions this will impact on opportunities for students who might have to travel to study, making more of a financial impact on studying to gain qualifications.

**Unique web address**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01414>

**Related information for petition**

**Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?**

NO

**How many signatures have you collected so far?**

1

**Closing date for collecting signatures online**

N/A

**Comments to stimulate online discussion**