



Department for Education

2025-0019233

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith
Minister for Skills**

Robert Francis
Chairman of Council, Council of the Isles of Scilly
By email: helen.twamly@scilly.gov.uk

7 July 2025

Dear Mr Francis,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 May, regarding Further Education (FE) support for students aged 16 to 19 on the Isles of Scilly. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area and I apologise for the delay in doing so. I would be grateful if you could share this response with your co-signatories.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the help that you provide to students on the Isles of Scilly around obtaining FE in mainland England. Your support ensures that these young people can obtain the knowledge and skills needed to help them succeed, regardless of their background.

As you will know, the department is currently involved in the Government Spending Review exercise and will, over the next few months, engage in the usual Business Planning process that follows. It is through this process that we determine what funds we can access for the department's priorities, including for FE students across England.

As you mention, we have now increased the additional funding available for each FE student from the Isles of Scilly to £8,000 for the academic year 2025 to 2026. This is now 40% higher than it was in academic year 2022 to 2023. The Council of the Isles of Scilly has flexibility in how it uses this funding to support its students.

We will keep all our student support funding arrangements under review, including the travel and accommodation grant for Isles of Scilly FE students.

Thank you again for writing. I hope my reply reaffirms our commitment to your students.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith
Minister for Skills**