

Mr Jamie Hepburn MSP
Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

24 March 2022

Dear Minister,

Covid-19 – testing regime

As you will know the University and College Union has taken a safety-first approach throughout the pandemic, where our priority is the health, safety and well-being of students, staff, their families and dependants.

Therefore, we are deeply alarmed at the ending of the free lateral flow device testing system from next month, and we appreciate that this system has been effective because it has been UK-wide. We have written to the Scottish Secretary to raise our strong concerns with him, as per the attached letter.

We would also call upon the Scottish Government to do all it can to continue with free asymptomatic testing in Scotland, and an effective test and protect regime. We must ensure that the protections that have helped to keep people safe continue, as we see an alarming rise in infections, hospitalisations and, sadly, deaths at this current time. We will continue to raise these points via the Covid Recovery Group too.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Yours sincerely,



Mary Senior
Scotland Official