13 May 2015

Clerk to the Education and Culture Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Dear Sir/Madam

Educational (Scotland) Bill – Written Submission

This is a Written Submission on the Scottish Government’s Education (Scotland) Bill on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the International School of Aberdeen Educational Trust Limited. This letter makes specific reference to Question 21, ‘Registering teaching staff’ and the impact of mandatory registration on the school and, as a consequence, the North Sea Oil and Gas Industry in Aberdeen and in Scotland in general.

1. The International School of Aberdeen (ISA) was founded in 1972 as The American School of Aberdeen to provide schooling for the dependants of those working within the oil and gas industry in the North Sea. Its name was changed to ISA in 1997. It is the only international school in Scotland and its excellent global reputation is a major factor in attracting expatriate oil and gas workers to accept assignments in the area and their subsequent retention in the UK.

2. The school’s curriculum has evolved specifically to meet the needs of their varied international student body.

3. Mandatory GTCS registration of the entire instructional staff at the school would have a huge detrimental impact on their international programme.

4. The ISA must hire a proportion of international teachers with international teaching experience to deliver their curriculum. These teachers hold appropriate teaching certification, but they originate from and have experience across many different countries. Whether it is local teachers or ones from overseas being hired, they must all meet the school’s requirement to deliver a unique international curriculum.

5. A restriction to hire only teachers who are GTCS registered, would not only have a devastating effect on the ISA, but it would also mean that the school would not be able to continue to deliver its international educational programme.

6. If the ISA was unable to deliver this programme to students, the financial impact on the school be enormous. It might also affect the ISA’s long-term future in Aberdeen, which in turn would have an adverse effect on the Oil and Gas Industry in Scotland.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

David Chenier
Chairman, ISA Board of Trustees
& President, UK for ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited