Submission from Dr Edward G. Archer

Dear Committee Clerk:

As someone who has had a life-long involvement in Scottish education, I write to say that I am deeply concerned by the provisions of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill.

The Bill seems to me to be misguided in a number of respects. First and foremost, by seeking to limit the powers of individual institutions, and by transferring these to central political control, it strikes at the heart of Scotland’s universities. Academic freedom has been the hallmark of the universities over centuries. Through this freedom they have achieved great renown, in the interests of Scotland, of the United Kingdom and, essentially, in the wider world. This Bill seems to me to be unnecessary and it would greatly undermine the international prestige and success Scottish universities have rightly enjoyed, in both their outstanding teaching and in their many and varied research programmes.

I hope the Bill will not proceed.

Yours sincerely,

Edward G. Archer