Scottish Higher Education is not only a very successful sector in Scotland it is also one that is held in the highest regard internationally. I am therefore writing to express my utter dismay and concern at some of the proposals in the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill.

Apart from being baffled as to why this Bill is being introduced (there appears to be no clear evidence of serious, systematic deficiencies in the sector) I am concerned that the proposals will undermine the autonomy of Universities in Scotland to the detriment of their standing (and hence funding) in the international arena. The proposals outline a level of governmental intervention that is entirely inappropriate for an autonomous sector; posing a danger to the Universities’ ability to ensure academic freedom and act as sources of independent thinking.

It seems to me there has been a considerable lack of clear thinking when this Bill was proposed and I urge its withdrawal forthwith.

Caroline Ford
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