Submission from Mr David Allen

Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill

Dear Sir/madam,

I am writing to you to voice my concerns at the Bill introduced on July 16th. My business is organising and conducting tours for school groups, and groups of HE advisers in international schools, around UK and European universities. Scotland has long been a favourite of my clients, indeed I have a tour right now in November of four Scottish universities that is already full and operating a waitlist. I had the first person sign up for this tour in April – 7 months ahead of the tour. Scotland is that popular!

The Bill, in my opinion, represents an attack on the autonomy of HEIs in Scotland. In yet another attempt to centralise, this government is meddling in things it should not. Scottish universities have long been admired for their contributions and it is as a result of their autonomy that this has been the case. I can only see negatives from this unnecessary Bill. I wonder why it has been introduced in the first place, is something inherently wrong with the current system? Have not Scottish universities been competitive in the global HE market? Do they not have envious reputations for academic excellence? My question is – how have they managed to build such a strong reputation, or deliver such amazing breakthroughs if their current governance structure is flawed?

I urge you to reconsider the Bill in its entirety.

Sincerely,

David