Dear Committee Clerk, I write to register my anxiety aroused by the potentially harmful effects of the proposals in the Bill that seems challenging to justify in cost benefit assessment. The present arrangements underpin the national and international recognition of the quality, merit and success of higher education and academic research in Scotland. Extra regulation with inevitable consequent additional bureaucracy risks stifling enterprise and introducing needless delay of progress. Furthermore the Bill runs the risk of being perceived at home and abroad by political analysts and commentators as another step in the subtle pursuit of totalitarianism in Scotland by the national Party. Not a desirable prospect. My conclusion is to leave well alone.

Yours faithfully, Hamish W. Sutherland