To The Committee Clerk

I am contacting you to express my opposition to the proposals in The Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill. I am unclear what governance problem(s) this Bill is intended to address. Scotland has a long and unique history of academic excellence. These proposals threaten the future reputation of Scottish research and the institutions that produce it. Our HEIs strength is rooted in academic freedom and innovation and these proposals if implemented will be detrimental to the international standing of higher education in Scotland and consequently on our economy. The autonomy of the HEIS will be greatly weakened and will be vulnerable to direct political influence which is unacceptable. It is for these reasons that I felt compelled to lodge my opposition to the Bill.

Yours sincerely

Dr Karen L. Bell