Submission from Edward Kirby

Dear Sir or Madam,

While broadly approving of most legislation planned or already executed by the current Scottish Government. I must draw the line at the current Education Governance Bill that is about to be put to the Scottish Parliament. Yes, the Scottish universities are supported mainly by public funds, but once given the funds, I feel it is quite improper to take any active part in any active management of them. Yes it is of course perfectly reasonable to ask for regular reports that explain in reasonable detail where the money has gone, and to answer any questions that the Scottish Government wishes to ask. The Government is then, of course, fully entitled to make any comments or suggestions that it wishes, and to propose changes to the law if it wishes.

It is not, however, acceptable, for Government to interfere with university management, unless some gross mismanagement or crime has taken place. The danger of that is that whether intended or not, it would start to at least LOOK like political interference, and that is of course totally unacceptable to all of us.