Sirs,

Please add my strongest opposition to this dangerous HEG (Scotland) Bill. My reasons are as follows:

- governmental interference, often wholly based on a lack of understanding of University governance.
- a complete contradiction between, on the one hand: “Our aim is not to increase Ministerial control over institutions, but to support our institutions to develop their own governance systems to enable them to continue to reach their full potential” - Para 2 of the Consultation. and on the other hand the six areas of changes proposed in the consultation paper in November 2014 (one or two of which have already been dropped) which would effectively take over the running of the Universities.
- the threat to abolish, or completely weaken, the position of Rector, as well as Chancellor's Assessor.
- gross negative financial implications right across the board, both in the University sector and for the country as a whole.
- no possible need for this unnecessary and absurd Government interference. Universities have, since their inauguration, developed "their own governance systems to enable them to continue to reach their full potential.” Does Government intend re-inventing the wheel?

I support entirely the response of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, viz:

- “The RSE considers that the proposals...are inappropriate, unnecessary and potentially counter to good governance...We suggest that the proposals are withdrawn.
- “Institutional autonomy and independence are fundamental principles that underpin the successful performance of Scotland’s HE sector. The proposals outline a level of governmental intervention that is entirely inappropriate for an autonomous sector.
- “The proposed intervention could only be justified by clear evidence of serious, systematic deficiencies in the governance of the sector.”

Yours etc, Flora Selwyn