SUBMISSION FROM DR HELEN DAVIES

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed legislation regarding the Scottish universities. I was extremely lucky to have benefitted from a superb education at St Andrews as part of my medical degree. We were taught to the highest standards, as students we were well looked after, with excellent pastoral care. Part of the joy of the Scottish system is that the universities are free to vary the education; as part of my first year I studied Mediaeval History, not an opportunity I would have had in an English university.

I can remember the excitement of the election for Rector, as students we really valued this opportunity to choose who would represent us. There were students active in representing our views, and I never felt that we were anything less than valued and respected by the university staff. I cannot think we would have felt the Rector was really our choice if they were chosen via an interview process.

I believe any overly bureaucratic control of the universities will stifle development and restrict their ability to respond to changing circumstances both in this country and the world beyond. Students, above all, do not want to choose between identical institutions, they want a variety of courses, and indeed size and type of university so that they can choose one that matches their needs most closely. Please do not risk losing these gems of Scottish education by over-regulation and unnecessary micromanagement of their work.

Dr Helen Davies
BSc (Medical Science) St Andrews 1990, MBChB