Submission from Mr Kenneth A. Duncan

The Clerk of the Education and Culture Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concern that the proposed Higher Education Governance Bill is unnecessary and worse will have an adverse impact on higher education in Scotland. I myself have benefited from a Scottish university education and, therefore, know at first hand its unsurpassed quality and global reputation.

In the consultation document and its Ministerial forward, the aim was set out as 'not to increase ministerial control' but to support our institutions to develop their own governance systems to enable them to reach their full potential (para 2 of the Consultation). I find it difficult to accept that the imposition of a 'one-size fits all' approach does enable each university to full realize its own potential. Rather, it appears to be a recipe for stifling initiative through over regulation.

And so I would hope that in this matter the Scottish Parliament will be guided by the views of the Royal Society of Edinburgh which has characterized the proposals contained in this bill as 'inappropriate, unnecessary and potentially counter to good governance'. Quite frankly, if it isn't broken, don't fix it.

Yours faithfully,

Kenneth A. Duncan