Submission from Nicholas Issacs

Dear Sir

It must be clear to everyone in Government and beyond that the critical uniqueness of St. Andrews University rests not in its golf course, its scenery or even its history, impressive though these undoubtedly are. The creative genius of scholars, scientists, philosophers, artists over the years have created an unrivaled ambience, attraction and expectation of excellence that regulation can only damage, if it influences it at all. What can be the point of such interference? All the basic requirements of a university have long ago been met, exceeded and kept contemporary with the most forward trends.

This is true for all major educational institutions that have attracted students throughout the decades and centuries. I attended St. Andrews years ago BECAUSE of what it was, not because Government had tweaked it into nonsensical conformity. Today it has reached even greater heights through the inspiration and initiatives of distinguished faculty, extraordinary students, generous donors and visionary internal leadership - those who have a direct stake and front line role in its success. No "blueprint" control mechanism from a Government committee outside could improve on this, and is very likely to damage it, while spreading the perception of bureaucratic conformism without expertise, vision or zeal for the individuality of St. Andrews and its colleague institutions.

The effect on every aspect of Scottish life would be a disaster - economic, cultural, political, and - yes, educational.

Please, hands off!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Isaacs