I am physics teacher in a city secondary school. My experience of Education Scotland has been mixed, which I believe is a consequence of its extremely wide remit. For example, whilst some of the learning and teaching resources it provides are good, it can be far too hard to find materials, and the quality control seems variable (though this has improved lately). There is an ongoing need for it to streamline what it offers, and to make its website more accessible. I am not convinced of the wisdom of inspections being part of its remit. For example, Education Scotland has been one of the key drivers behind the massive increase in bureaucracy in schools, and yet one of the main ways we are supposed to monitor improvements in this matter is through inspections. I query how well inspection reports will challenge bureaucracy generated by Education Scotland.

It is also the case that Education Scotland seems to be one of the bodies entrusted with tackling some of the core problems with the implementation of CfE, but without any acknowledgement of where it has, itself, been behind such problems. The current benchmarking exercise seems a good example of this. The draft benchmarks simply seem to be a repackaging of the current advice - it does make it easier to have all the guidance in one place, but that is not much help when the guidance is itself flawed (for example, highly complex and prescriptive 2nd level science benchmarks).