Dear Mr Dornan,

I do not feel that the St Andrews Students’ Association is in a position to respond in comprehensive detail to your request for our opinion on the performance of the SFC.

In my experience, the SFC does not routinely consult the Students’ Associations that are not affiliated to the NUS. A change to this policy would certainly produce positive results, given that there are a number of sizeable and prominent non-affiliated Student Unions, Guilds or Associations in Scotland. Non-affiliated Student Associations are also likely to have views and experiences that do not align with those that are affiliated with the NUS. I would also add that this is not just a relevant comment with regards to communication between the SFC and Student Unions/Guilds/Associations, but with many other avenues of dialogue between government bodies and Students’ Associations. The NUS is neither the sole nor the definitive representative body of student experience or opinion in Scotland.

It would be a welcome change if the SFC and other bodies gave the non-affiliated a regularly avenue to voice our opinions and to be informed of changes that are being considered.

Best wishes,

Charlotte Andrew
Association President 2016/17