



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

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Janet Legrand OBE, Senior Lay Member of Court  
Sir Peter Mathieson FRSE, Principal and Vice Chancellor  
University of Edinburgh  
Old College  
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10 May 2024

Dear Janet and Peter

**Business Committee reply to the response from Court and the Senior Leadership Team to the submission from the General Council on lessons learned from People and Money**

On behalf of the Business Committee of the General Council, we should like to express our gratitude to Court and the University Executive for the full and informative joint response we received via Dan Wedgewood (Head of Court Services) to our submission dated 2 February 2024 about learning the lessons from People and Money.

The Business Committee carefully considered your composite response when it met on 2 May and we also had the benefit of an oral report from General Council Assessor, Douglas Alexander, on the Court meeting held on 22 April. Members were pleased to hear of your recognition that the Committee's intention in writing to you, in an exceptional set of circumstances, was intended to be constructive. We were seeking to look forward to and encourage solutions, rather than a provide a retrospective analysis of the issues set out in the PA Consulting report. We are encouraged that your response clearly reflects a similar approach to dealing with this complex issue.

Members of the Committee appreciated knowing more about the extensive programme of work now underway to implement the recommendations of the PA Consulting report. We have no wish to impede the further progress of that essential work by raising fresh questions at this point.

We look forward to learning more in due course as this work progresses from the reports we receive from the General Council Assessors. We will also hear, where appropriate, of the progress from our normal programme of meetings in the coming academic year with a wide range of senior executive staff.

You will recall that we drew attention in our letter to the impact of the adverse publicity surrounding People and Money on the University's standing among its external as well as internal stakeholders, including its alumni. With that point in mind, and as there seems to us to be nothing in our various exchanges of a commercially sensitive nature, the Business Committee would like to make them available on the General Council website. Doing so will give re-assurance to those members concerned about this matter by demonstrating the serious way it is being dealt with. You will recall that in our original letter we mentioned

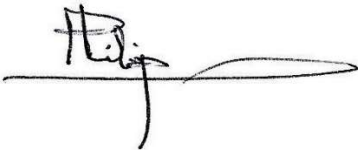
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Secretary Dr William Duncan  
(to whom all correspondence should be addressed)

the possibility of making the correspondence more widely available after the exchanges had reached a conclusion.

Also, as People and Money issues were covered extensively in Peter's report to the February Half Yearly Meeting, we need to be prepared for this topic to be raised at the next meeting of the General Council on 15 June. It will simplify dealing with this then to be able to refer to the information available on our website and, of course, we shall be happy to coordinate the timing of this with Leigh Chalmers and are sending her a copy of this letter.

Finally, we should like to thank you both for your personal contributions to the preparation of this joint response by Court and the Senior Leadership Team to our representations to Court and for the constructive way in which this exceptional matter has been handled in line with our complementary responsibilities for the prosperity and well-being of the University.

Yours sincerely



Sir Philp Mawer  
Convener Business Committee



Dr William Duncan  
Secretary to General Council

Copies to - Leigh Chalmers, Vice Principal and University Secretary  
General Council Business Committee, including General Council Assessors

Chairman HRH The Princess Royal  
Secretary Dr William Duncan  
(to whom all correspondence should be addressed)