

Letter to SIT Committee

William Barter

Context

- Letter from Lord Vallance and Prof Sir Ian Chapman to House of Commons committee claims the Drayson partitions allow tensioning of PPAN grants against international subscriptions.
- This goes against 17 years of interpretation of Drayson partitions.
- Our letter provides evidence for this position.
- I have confirmed the letter:
 - with Philip – so wider school management are aware.
 - with national colleagues – so we can coordinate and to confirm messaging doesn't clash.
- I have copied the evidence referred to in the letter to my own webspace in Edinburgh so that it doesn't 'disappear'.
 - Probably over-the-top from me but I'd rather have control here.
- Signatures from 'senior' members of IPNP:
 - Means letter does not look 'bulked out'.
 - Means we do not put undue pressure on ECRs to sign.
 - We are 'more protected' in any ensuing discussion.

What the letter is and isn't

- We are not trying to win every single argument in the letter – we must rely on our national and international colleagues to make the other arguments.
- Hopefully we can convince the committee that the letter from Lord Vallance and Prof Sir Ian Chapman contains mistakes.
 - There are other mistakes in the letter too, being pointed out by other colleagues – eg number of theory postdoc positions.
- Factual letters allow ‘editorialising’ letters to the committee to have more impact.
- Also lets Lord Vallance see the evidence that he is being ‘misled’ by those advising him.
 - A route out of ‘this crisis’ probably requires his support, so we need to help him change his view.

What next?

- Still time to add your name.
 - Please let me know by 5pm!
- Please check the draft I have uploaded to the indico and let me know if there is a problem.
 - No need to let me know if it is fine!
- I plan to submit the letter late this evening.
 - Avoids a 1st April date on the letter.
- I plan to allow the committee to place the letter in the public record (so anyone can see it on parliament's website).
 - Transparency is good!
 - It means Lord Vallance can see it.
 - It means that we can link to a copy of it more easily when emailing MPs.

Finally

- My thanks to colleagues for help in drafting the letter.
- And my apologies for the volume in your email inbox yesterday!