

**Meeting between Mr Lochhead and Royal Historical Society
Thursday 4 October 2018.**

Officials Notes

Attendees:

Mr Lochhead, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
Dr Andrew Roach, University of Glasgow
Prof. Frances Andrews, University of St Andrews
Prof Karin Friedrich, University of Aberdeen
Prof. Margot Finn, University College London
[REDACTED], Scottish Government official

Overview of discussion

- Meeting delayed as two of the RHS attendees running late
- RHS provided an overview of their work and gave a short summary of their programme to celebrate their 150th anniversary.
- RHS advised that it will soon publish a landmark report on race, ethnicity and equality in UK history later that day. RHS to send this report to the Minister.
- Discussion around Brexit and the concerns around this. RHS emphasised the contribution made by EU students and provided examples to highlight this. Mr Lochhead spoke about the importance of Universities raising their concerns publically. RHS agreed and felt this was already done by Universities.
- RHS clear that Europe is key to History as a discipline.
- The importance of language skills and learning was evident in discussions.
- RHS spoke about the need for History to be recognised more. Accepted the case for such a focus on STEM subjects and how important this is but felt History and the humanities also needed recognition. RHS highlighted that History is an effective subject in terms of widening access.
- Discussion on the TEF. General unhappiness from RHS on how it is progressing, especially in the context of subject level TEF. Representatives said it was unlikely their institution would be applying for TEF Year 4. Mr Lochhead emphasised that the TEF is not a Scottish Government policy and asked [REDACTED] to provide him with additional background on the Scottish Government position.
- Discussion around the marketization of HE in England and the problem with this.
- RHS raised concerns about the issue of Open Access publishing but agreed to follow up on this separately.
- Mr Lochhead spoke about possible ways to enhance History. Said it would have been useful to have had an event in Parliament to mark the RHS 150 years celebration. RHS agreed and said they would be open to this in the future if it was something that could be arranged.