



Scottish Affairs Committee

Rt Hon Alister Jack MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
Dover House
London
SW1A 2AU

25 April 2022

Universities and Scotland Government response

Dear Alister,

Thank you for the UK Government's response dated 31 March 2022 to the Committee's Report on [Universities and Scotland](#) (from 28 May 2021). I would like to thank you, in particular, for the level of detail provided. The Committee has three follow-up questions which we would be grateful if you could answer:

1. What opportunities will there be for inward student exchange and inward and outward academic staff exchange, in the same way that the Erasmus+ provided, in the absence of dedicated funding for this via the Turing Scheme?
2. Whether, as part of a fair and open recruitment process for the UKRI Board, the UK Government would consider ringfencing seats in future for institutions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, in an effort to increase UKRI's UK-wide representation?
3. Given that it appears UK participation in Horizon Europe is being treated as a negotiating pawn by the EU in the context of separate challenges in the UK-EU relationship, what steps is the UK Government taking to unblock this particular issue?

As a more general point on Government responses to reports, we would be grateful if future Government responses to our reports could clearly state whether the Government accepts, partially accepts or rejects each recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

Pete Wishart MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee