



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education

Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba

A' brosnachadh foghlam adhartach agus àrd-ìre

9 August 2012

Stuart Todd  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
T3.40  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Stuart

**Public Petition PE1395: targeted funding for lesser taught languages and cultures at universities**

Thank you for your letter of 3 July seeking a response to two questions arising from the meeting of the Petitions Committee on 26 June. I set out below our response to the questions.

*The Committee considered a further submission from the petitioner at its meeting on 26 June 2012 regarding the forthcoming outcome agreement with the University of Glasgow. Please confirm whether language-based culture courses in Czech, Polish, Russian and Slavonic Studies, up to and including postgraduate level, will be specifically included in the outcome agreement with the University of Glasgow?*

The University of Glasgow will continue to offer teaching in Czech, Polish and Russian – along with 6 other languages – in academic year 2012-13 and this was confirmed in its Outcome Agreement. The University has also confirmed that it continues to offer post graduate diplomas in all 3 languages, along with Slovak. The non-language based degree offered by the Slavonic Studies department at the University has been discontinued as the University concentrates its activities in areas where there is student demand.

*If these language-based culture courses are not included in the outcome agreement can you please set out why not, and detail what other provision is available to students in Scotland who wish to pursue language-based study in the cultures of Central and Eastern Europe within Slavonic Studies?*

We have dealt with Czech, Polish and Russian above. The University's Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies has formed part of a UK-wide initiative since 2006 and, as a result of funding from SFC and HEFCE, has developed and

expanded its activities, including providing teaching materials in Russian and, in the near future, Estonian, Latvian and Hungarian. The University of Glasgow will also continue to offer its degree in Central and Eastern European Studies. The Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh also have academic interests across a range of disciplines in this area. SFC's overall assessment, therefore, is that Scotland's universities are continuing to respond to demand for modern languages.

**MTS Batho**  
Chief Executive