



Thursday 18 September

Young Academy of Scotland - Post Referendum Statement

The Royal Society of Edinburgh's Young Academy of Scotland has sought to inform the referendum debate, but has remained strictly impartial throughout. We now publicly commit to throw our weight behind the democratic decision of the people of Scotland and hope that all forward looking individuals and groups with the best interests of this country and its place in the world will join us in doing so. The 2012 Edinburgh Agreement contained an important concluding sentence "The two governments are committed to continue to work together constructively in the light of the outcome, whatever it is, in the best interests of the people of Scotland and of the rest of the United Kingdom". We applaud that commitment and hope it extends to the passionate campaigners on either side of the debate. It certainly does to members of the Young Academy of Scotland, comprising over 150 emerging leaders from the disciplines of science and humanities, the professions, the arts, business and civil society. We stand firmly behind the result and will work with our political leaders towards the exciting future which Scotland undoubtedly has.

Notes:

Established by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011, the work of the Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) is carried out by 10 working groups guided by primary interest areas of Knowledge, Employment, Young People and Health & Wellbeing. YAS also engages with topical issues, and at the moment, Scottish constitutional reform is a particular focus.

At the start of 2014, YAS worked with the David Hume Institute (DHI) and a number of professional bodies to deliver a series of seminars to help better inform the public on these debates. Chaired by DHI director Jeremy Peat, each seminar brings a senior politician from one of the five parties represented at the Scottish Parliament to speak for 45 to 50 minutes about the 'implications of constitutional change'. Each speaker chose his or her particular slant for their talk and took questions for a further 30 minutes. Please see our report on the series here:

http://www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk/images/DHI/Pols_and_Profs_-_Booklet.pdf

For further information please contact: Neil McLennan, YAs Co-Chair, ndr_mclennan@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk

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