

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION FROM THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY FOR AUTISM

1. I watched Hugh O'Donnell give evidence to the Committee on his Autism (Scotland) Bill. About 45 minutes into his session he made the statement that I had been appointed to my position of Chief Executive Officer of the Scottish Society for Autism (SSA) by the Government! This is a significant falsehood which I would like to see corrected in the record.
 - I was appointed as Interim CEO in a competitive interview process last summer, by the Board of Directors, none of whom are appointed by the Government or represent the Government in any way.
 - I was appointed to the permanent position six months later, through a publicly advertised recruitment process which again resulted in competitive interviews carried out by a panel of the organisation's Directors.
 - The Government has no say in the governance of the SSA or direct control over the actions and opinions of the SSA, more than it does over any other private company.

Alan Somerville
Chief Executive Officer
2 December 2010