



To: Council Members/Trustees of the RIAS

c/o Chapter Presidents

From: the “a New Chapter” Group of Scottish architects

5 December 2017

Dear Sirs/Madams,

We are a Group of around 180, most of us architect members of the RIAS but including architects who are non-members and friends who want to work with you to reform the RIAS and assume you are aware of our concerns. We have hitherto communicated them through Stewart Henderson, President, but he has failed to answer our questions. We understand that you are our representatives and have legal responsibility for the organisation: on the one hand we might have been in touch direct before now – for which omission we apologise; on the other the RIAS is characteristically opaque about how to do this.

Our concerns are as follows:

1. The lack of oversight you have of financial matters, including salaries and bonuses, and how pay rises, bonuses, staff loans, expenses and business credit facilities are sanctioned.
2. The sanctioning by you of the 2016 RIAS Annual Accounts.
3. That extensive Reviews have been commissioned whose results need to be examined and owned by yourselves, as our representatives, but that you have been denied sight of.
4. That they seem to have resulted in the sudden departure of the RIAS Secretary and Treasurer, but that the contents of any “Compromise Agreement” with him are, once again, being withheld from you.
5. That all of this points to a massive failure of Governance procedures; but that while the President has noted the need to reform them the result, instead

of the opening-up that should be the first act of reform, has been the suppression of all documents that might reveal bad practice and the imposition of a fantastical regime of secrecy and confidentiality agreements by the small group around the President that, effectively, run the RIAS in your place.

In all this we note – and support – the Strategy Review and moves to reform that are ongoing in the Chapters. And we also note the requirements for data protection but are clear that their minor and standard requirements are no reason for the blanket secrecy that the President's group is pursuing.

We also note that, having received no answers to our questions to the President we have notified our concerns to the Charities Regulator, OSCR, who tell us they will ask the RIAS these critical questions on our behalf, as ordinary members – a recognition of the seriousness of the situation as they might ordinarily look to organisations to review and resolve matters themselves. Our intention here, as elsewhere, is to support you in regaining the required oversight of the organisation and we hope that this contact will assist you in focusing on demanding that the finances and workings of the RIAS are made open to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A New Chapter