

*“I refer to yesterday’s RIAS Announcement, dated 1st Feb 2018.*

*I am concerned this was issued anonymously and without the knowledge or approval of RIAS Council.*

*It is true that I raised serious allegations of financial irregularities as well as gross mismanagement. However, this was nearly a year ago and since then it would seem Council and members have repeatedly had the wool pulled over their eyes with denials and misleading statements. From yesterday’s announcement it would now appear this ‘yarn’ has been spun into a fine set of “kings clothes”. This really is the stuff of fables.*

*I have been reluctant to speak out as these matters are subject to ongoing enquiries by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and Police Scotland. Under the circumstances however I believe it is important that members consider much of what is contained in this Announcement is far from being a fair account of events. As my name has been mentioned repeatedly I believe I have a reasonable right of reply.*

*I would therefore like to give just one example. This will hopefully help members understand why I raised concerns, and why I am unhappy that despite over 9 months of enquiry a number of critical questions remain unanswered.*

*Last year I was approached by a whistleblower member of staff who alleged that during the Festival of Architecture 2016 an employee ‘awarded himself’ a bonus of £19,000. This was unknown to the Board of Trustees who are responsible for setting and approving all staff remuneration. What was just as concerning however, was that the Festival went over budget and during 2016 the Secretary & Treasurer sent out a begging bowl seeking one-off donations of initially £1000. After a bit of a backlash this was reduced to £500 per practice, and I understand this raised around £40,000 in charitable donations.*

*This raised another question which was how many practices would have been happy to make such a donation if they had known 50% of their money was to be handed over to a single employee?*

*Many other significant questions flow from this - one of which is why this was not highlighted in the Trustees Annual Report.*

*Within the last 10 months I have raised a wide range of concerns. These included allegations of: serious financial irregularities; gross mismanagement; appointments of consultants without tenders; hiring and firing of staff; matters of serious misconduct and significant failures in governance. Despite Mr Henderson having spent over £100,000 of members fees - without prior Council approval or any delegated authority - most of the questions I have asked remain unanswered.*

*Moreover, there are grounds to believe some individual matters would alone amount to gross misconduct and summary dismissal. When considered together the position is quite staggering - yet reports have not been shared equally with Trustees, there has been no disciplinary hearings, and no one has been held to account.*

*I would suggest ordinary members of the RIAS should take time to reconsider what was stated in yesterday's RIAS Announcement and ask the President and Council as a whole, to fully explain how they have met their fiduciary duties, and why they are so sure there has been no misuse of members funds.*

*Members may also wish to reflect on yesterday's disclosure that an employ who was reported as having resigned and on gardening leave, was also entitled to a severance payment.*

*Kerr Robertson”*

