

## Petitioner submission of 30 March 2023

### PE1982/D: Review funding arrangements for higher education to help ensure more funded places are available for Scottish ballet dancers at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

1. The respondent has claimed that from my “assertion” that there is a “cap” in place, is false. However, this is contradicted by the very detail of their own records. As you can easily observe, there is not one instance in the ten-year record up to 2020 provided by them, where the number 5 has been exceeded. Also, to make matters worse, with the HESA system used, it can very well be considered that the number could be even as low as 3 students for each year intake. This, I am sad to say was indeed the numbers that I had received for year intake 2022 from unofficial sources prior to the petition.

Please see below.

#### **HESA Services Standard Rounding Methodology:**

All **numbers** are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5

Any number lower than 2.5 is rounded to 0

Halves are always rounded upwards (e.g. 2.5 is rounded to 5)

**Percentages** based on fewer than 22.5 individuals are suppressed

**Averages** based on 7 or fewer individuals are suppressed

The above requirements apply to headcounts, FPE and FTE data

Financial data is not rounded

2. The respondent then claims; as I would very well expect them to that: “Entry to the programme is by audition and Scottish-domiciled dancers who have met the entry standards for the programme have been offered places.”

This will always be a “get-out of jail” clause for any subjective-based assessment which auditions inevitably are. In my original petition, all 5 of the previously mentioned dancers accepted to **Central School of Ballet in London**, regarded within the industry as at the very least as good a dance conservatoire, were also accepted without exception to multiple other Dance Schools. The anomaly in their success tally being R.C.S.

where **not one** was accepted. Is R.C.S. then saying that only 3-5 students are up to standard of R.C.S. from the entirety of Scotland? Indeed, that **not one** of the best students that Scotland has to offer from, **The Dance School of Scotland**, the **only** government subsidised, full-time training school could not meet the entry standards for R.C.S. when 5 out of one particular year-group are currently studying at Central in London? Also, many others elsewhere at other institutions outside of Scotland at great personal cost to their families? Are we to accept this argument without question?

3. "Scottish dancers presenting for audition at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and who meet the required standard have been offered places."

We cannot request proof of acceptances as it would infringe privacy. Therefore, we have to "accept" that the truth is being told regarding this. Again, I refer to those 5 candidates in particular, who clearly contradict this statement. To my knowledge there were no offers of acceptance and no rejections of such an offer to any of them.

4. I find the records of admissions supplied to you by RCS as very confusing. We can see that they claim that a total of 20 students were accepted onto the course in **only two years out of the last 10?** For all the remaining years they state that **only** between 5 and 15 students (HESA Methodology) have been accepted? With the exception of 2015 where **only 5** students in total were accepted? Then in 2011/2012 **only 10?**

As you may gather, I am not at all convinced by this response. Perhaps R.C.S. consider that any response and not a very credible one, is all that is needed is to make this query go away?

I have also been supplied with the admissions figures from the last four years up to 2022 overlapping with the information you have received from RCS. It is again consistent with those supplied to the committee by R.C.S. and again displaying the **unwavering Scottish Domiciled student rate of "5"** which of course in their thinking is "**not a cap**". The committee including; Jackson Carlaw MSP, Fergus Ewing MSP and David Torrence MSP have stated that the Scottish Government provided funding for 30 Scottish students. With the consistency being illustrated here that a maximum of 5 Scottish Domiciled students have been

accepted onto the course in any given year, we can only ascertain that something is very much amiss.