→ Sir John Chisholm
cc'd A Roberts
A Wilson
cw
21/10

Tigh-nan-Eilean,
ARDFERN,
PA31 8QN

Tel: 01852 500 532
18 October 2005

Sir John Chisholm,
President, IEE.

21 OCT 2005

Dear John,

You will recall that at the time of the September SGM called by the Trustees the President had already received our petition requisitioning a further SGM to set up a working party to review the proposed Charter and Bye-laws for the new Institution. Subsequently you spoke of your desire to work with us in a constructive manner in the interest of the Institution and the Profession.

Of course we all accept that the members voting by proxy carried the proposals of the Trustees. The outcome might have been different if the Trustees had not spent so much time promoting their scheme to the exclusion of all other points of view. Indeed it seems that some of the PR tactics were less than honest as I believe at least one individual who was promoted as favouring the scheme was misquoted and was opposed to it.

Nevertheless the Trustees know that there is a good deal of unrest about many matters relating to the management of the Institution, and not least the Charter and Bye-laws. In view of your desire to work with the Petitioners in a constructive way and the disquiet amongst the membership I am surprised that the Trustees have proceeded to put the draft proposals to the Privy Council for approval, with a view to gaining their consent before we have even agreed a date for our SGM.

I imagined that the Trustees would have the good sense to wait till after the draft Charter and Bye-laws had been reviewed before rushing headlong into the new scheme which is likely to have to be changed again next year. This tactic is clearly designed to sideline our petition, no doubt in the hope that our proposal will be defeated at our SGM, but it cannot give anyone a sense of constructive co-operation. I should appreciate your written comments on this matter.

Finally, let me draw to your attention that in view of the almost complete silence on the part of *our Institution* to the receipt of a petition signed by many senior members we have found it necessary to set up our own web site which you will find at www.engineering-institution.org.uk.

I am taking the precaution of copying this letter to the Clerk to the Privy Council.

Yours sincerely,

(Prof. Colin Davidson, Secretary to the Petitioners)

Cc. Alex Galloway, Privy Council Office

→ Sir John
cc Ia Roberts
AF Wilson
CW
4/11

Tigh-nan-Eilean,
ARDFERN,
PA31 8QN

Tel: 01852 500 532

01 November 2005

Sir John Chisholm,
President, IEE.

04 NOV 2005

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 28th October. I think the only point on which we might disagree is the idea that those who voted for the merger took the trouble to understand the implications of the proposed Charter and Bye-laws. We are quite happy that a large majority of those members who voted supported the merger; unfortunately the proposal for the merger was bundled together with the Charter and Bye-laws and so it might have been prudent to delay matters until the problems with the Charter and Bye-laws have been resolved.

As you say the Charter and Bye-laws have undergone significant change over the past five years. I was a member of Council and Executive Board when transfer of governance from Council to the Trustees took place, and voted for it. Since that time, however, control of the affairs of the Institution has passed entirely to the Trustees with little opportunity for input from the membership, or even from Council. Furthermore, as the minutes of the Trustees meetings are "confidential" it seems that the members are not permitted to know what the Trustees have discussed and agreed on our behalf. These are matters which need to be addressed in our proposed review of the Charter and Bye-laws.

I look forward to hearing from you once we know the views expressed by Council members on 24th November.

Yours sincerely,

(Prof. Colin Davidson, Secretary to the Petitioners)

The following letters have been removed from this document at the request of Professor Davidson:

From Professor Colin Davidson to the Clerk to the Privy Council, dated 12 October 2005.
From the Clerk to the Privy Council to Professor Colin Davidson, dated 25 October 2005.
From Mr John A Errett to the Clerk to the Privy Council, dated 7 November 2005
From the Clerk to the Privy Council to Mr John A Errett, undated.
From Mr D C Perry to the Clerk to the Privy Council, dated 4 November 2005
From the Clerk to the Privy Council to Mr John A Errett, undated.

The letters can be found on the petitioners' website here:
http://www.engineering-institution.org.uk/privycouncil.htm