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THE DAVID HUME INSTITUTE

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SPRING SEMINAR SERIES 2004

REGISTRATION FORM

N.B. All seminars begin at 6.00pm and will be held at the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh.

- Thursday 12 February 2004** **£12**
‘The Private Finance Initiative. From the foundations up’
Professor Peter Jackson, (Leicester University Business School)
- Thursday 11 March 2004** **£12**
‘NHS Scotland versus NHS England. Lessons to be learned’
Ben Irvine (Civitas) and
Professor Stephen K Smith, (University of Glasgow)
- Thursday 18 March 2004** **£12**
‘The Equitable Life Report’
The Rt.Hon Lord Penrose PC, (Court of Session)
- Thursday 22 April 2004** **£12**
‘Tilting at Windmills. The economics of wind power’
Professor David Simpson, The David Hume Institute
- All four seminars £40**
- Please invoice me**
- I enclose a cheque for £(made payable to The David Hume Institute)**
- Institute Member - free admittance**

N.B. No refunds are available but substitutions may be made

PLEASE GIVE THE NAME OF EACH PERSON ATTENDING

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS) _____

JOB TITLE _____

ORGANISATION _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TEL. NO. _____ EMAIL _____

'The Private Finance Initiative'

Professor Peter Jackson, Leicester University Business School, Thursday 12 February 2004

This seminar sets out to establish the basic assumptions, attractions and weaknesses of the PFI mode of funding, set out clearly so that the issues can be debated in a coherent fashion. There was a feeling that many discussions in this area generate more heat than light, owing largely to participants lacking a common reference point. To this end, The David Hume Institute has enlisted the help of Professor Peter Jackson, a recognised expert in this field and someone who served as special advisor to the Finance Committee of the Scottish Parliament when they were considering PFI. Professor Jackson has agreed to write a 'Primer in PFI'. This will appear as a *Hume Occasional Paper* and form the backdrop to a David Hume Seminar on PFI which Professor Jackson himself will give.

'NHS Scotland versus NHS England. Lessons to be learned.'

Ben Irvine (Civitas) and Professor Stephen K Smith, University of Glasgow, Thursday 11 March 2004

The health policy debate has often centred around raising the level of resource available to the NHS to levels comparable with our European partners. But Scotland already enjoys something approaching this higher level of spending, and certainly much more than is available to England. A joint research project between The David Hume Institute and Civitas has examined the evidence provided by this differential level of funding between the NHS in Scotland and the NHS in England. It finds that Scotland gets less healthcare value for each pound spent than England. And, compared internationally, both countries remain poor performers. The England-Scotland result holds even allowing for the relatively poor state of health of Scotland's population. The seminar presents the key findings of the research investigation and opens up discussion of policy alternatives in the health care delivery that merit serious and urgent consideration.

'The Equitable Life Enquiry'

The Honourable Lord George William Penrose, Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, Thursday 18 March 2004

At the end of August 2001, the government announced that Lord Penrose was to head an enquiry into the Equitable Life affair. The terms of reference for the Inquiry are very broad and aim to produce an authoritative account of what happened, to identify where there were deficiencies in the framework or in the practice under that framework, to draw the necessary lessons, and to make recommendations. Now, over two years later, the inquiry is nearing completion. Lord Penrose has agreed to give a seminar to The David Hume Institute in which he will discuss, as frankly as possible, the lessons to be learned from the affair and from his inquiry into that affair. Lord Penrose wishes it to be clear from the outset that there are various aspects of the inquiry which will inhibit the discussion at this seminar. These include considerations of confidentiality with respect to any material Ministers chose not to publish and areas that are subject to current litigation. The Equitable Life affair has implications for future regulation not only in the life assurance business but also in the Financial Services Industry more generally.

'Tilting at Windmills. The economics of wind power'

Professor David Simpson, Thursday 22 April 2004.

Energy policy in Scotland is circumscribed by two government commitments. The first is a consequence of the Kyoto Agreement, whereby the United Kingdom is committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions by the 2008-2012 period to levels significantly below those of 1990. The second is an internally defined policy objective of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 2010 to 20% below the 1990 level.

As a major (indeed, the major) policy instrument for attaining these targets, the government has chosen the production of energy from renewable resources. This is to be done by obliging power companies to attain a certain proportion of their output in renewable form by given target dates (2010 being the nearest). The dominant and most visible form of renewable energy being developed in Scotland is wind power, although remarkably little is known about the commercial realities of this form of energy production. The David Hume Institute has been conducting a research project under the direction of Professor David Simpson to examine the economics of wind power. This seminar will disseminate the findings of Professor Simpson's investigations.