

**PE1530/I**

Hugh Tonks Email of 8 November 2014

Dear Petitions Committee,

I understand that the Centre for Intelligent Design is trying to force its agenda onto the curriculum of Scottish schools, this agenda being the denigration of evolution as scientific fact and the promulgation of their own religiously-inspired theories as a viable alternative. Although I am not Scottish and do not live in Scotland, I nevertheless feel compelled to add my voice to those attempting to prevent this travesty.

Evolution is not a theory in the sense of a proposition. It is scientific fact, supported by an enormous weight of evidence from all branches of science, and with no evidence whatsoever to the contrary. Intelligent Design, by contrast, has no evidence whatsoever to support it other than a literal reading of the Bible, and is creationism dressed up in scientific clothes in order to attempt to give it some shred of credibility. The CID will tell you that you must “teach the controversy”, as if the two views of the origins of life have equal likelihood. However, there is no controversy among reputable scientists; this supposed controversy has been artificially manufactured by the CID (quite in contravention, I might add, of their own Biblical commandment which proscribes the bearing of false witness).

In short, evolution belongs in science lessons; intelligent design does not. I urge the committee to reject this abject nonsense out of hand, as it will set back the cause of scientific education by approximately 200 years, bring the Scottish education system into disrepute, and (last, but by no means least) turn the committee into a laughing stock.

I close this note with my sincere hope that good sense will prevail.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh Tonks