

I write on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS) to register our concern at the proposed changes to JISC RSC-Scotland outlined in the recent blog post [‘Putting customers at the heart of what we do’](#).

CILIPS is the professional association for library and information professionals. We have members working across the sectors including further and higher education institutions or in partnership with them. We regard the JISC RSC-Scotland team as a key partner with whom we collaborate on conference, training, research and project activity in support of Scottish education.

Our concerns focus on three main areas:

- 1) The linking of Scotland and Northern Ireland as a single unit when each nation operates a separate educational and legal framework. Scotland’s distinct curriculum and qualifications awarding body together with the challenging geographical remit to be covered by the new single unit suggest this may not be a ‘best fit’ solution.

- 2) The closure of the JISC RSC-Scotland office and centralisation of services in London or Bristol as a strategy to ‘be closer to the sectors we serve’. JISC RSC-Scotland enjoys an excellent reputation for support based on staff expertise, meaningful engagement and face to face contact. For many, the JISC presence in Scotland is represented by the regional office.

- 3) Insufficient recognition of the unique delivery context in Scotland for JISC services and the associated community ecosystem of which the JISC RSC-Scotland has proved a vital and transformative resource. The staff team and office have been the catalyst to valuable partnership and training activity to support education and learning in providing both a learning space and local expertise for initiatives which deliver a positive impact on the learning and education community.

CILIP in Scotland hopes that the SFC will work together with JISC to find a way to ensure continuation of the JISC RSC-Scotland and the support it provides to the Scottish education community.