

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JMSS/00128/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

15 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 14 February welcoming the work that the Welsh Government is undertaking to remove the barriers for social work students and seeking clarification of how we will ensure equivalent funding for social work training as provided for health professionals.

We will shortly lay before the Senedd the regulations needed to make the changes that will allow postgraduate social work students to be able to access further support from Student Finance Wales. If all goes well, we expect that these will come into force from May, which will allow postgraduate students that access the bursary from Social Care Wales (SCW) the opportunity to access 'top up' finance through Student Finance Wales for the 2022/23 academic year. The Welsh Government continues to develop our wider options, working with SCW, with respect to the funding and nature of social work training to help meet future workforce demand. Whilst it is difficult to provide a definitive timeline at this stage on how these pieces of work will progress, I expect to receive further advice from my officials in the coming months. Also important here is the social work workforce plan which SCW has developed working closely with stakeholders in the sector and which it will publish in the spring.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

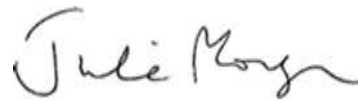
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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