

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-615
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00716/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

20 April 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your recent letter which I received on 9 April on behalf of the Committee following our previous correspondence about student loan payments in the final year of study. Ms Bray has raised a further issue about student loan payments for healthcare students and how they link to term times.

My earlier reply explained that support for healthcare students is tailored to include funding for any additional weeks of study specific to their course. These arrangements recognise that the final year loan, which is applied equally for all students irrespective of course, is a reduced amount as the number of weeks in the final academic year is generally reduced. However, NHS students can apply for an additional weeks allowance through the NHS Bursary Scheme as it is recognised that their academic year may exceed 30 weeks. The NHS bursary takes into account the length of the course in each academic year, including periods of practice placement for all NHS students, and is increased for each week over and above the standard 30 weeks of study. This means that most students would receive an additional £83 per week for each week over 30 weeks.

You will be aware that the Health Professional Education Investment Review has now been concluded and the report published. A six week engagement period has now commenced and we are encouraging individuals and organisations who have an interest in the health education and training agenda to participate in this process. The Diamond Review is also continuing its review of higher education funding and student finance arrangements. Your earlier letter was brought to the attention of both Panel chairs and I will ensure that this latest correspondence is also passed on accordingly.

Yours sincerely

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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