

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-659
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/03134/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

21 November 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 2 November to Huw Lewis AM, Minister for Education and Skills, regarding the petition you have received from Steffan Thomas regarding student nurse placement travel costs. The letter was passed to me for reply as Minister for Health and Social Services.

The Welsh NHS Bursary Scheme supports the education and training of a range of healthcare professionals, including nurses. Prior to the change, individuals were able to claim travel expenses for attending all placement venues. The scheme did not distinguish between placements located closer or further from the normal base of study. This was in contrast to the arrangements in place elsewhere in the UK and to the arrangements for employed nurses who would normally receive reimbursement for hours travelled in excess of their normal travelling requirement.

The changes introduced make provision for mileage to be claimed in circumstances where students are required to travel further than they would normally to participate in an educational placement. This means no student should be disadvantaged regardless of where their placements take place.

In addition, as part of the wider changes, the amount which students are able to claim per mile was increased.

The introduction of these arrangements applied to new students only and therefore no student experienced a cut in the funding they could claim under the bursary arrangements.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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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.

Students attend placements to learn about the duties they will undertake on satisfactory completion of their training programmes. During these placements they are supervised and are required to meet educational standards as part of their evidence of competence.

I am able to confirm there are no plans to change the current arrangements.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Mark".

Mark Drakeford AC / AM

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