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Dear Karen

The Scottish Government writes annually to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) regarding intake numbers for medical schools in Scotland. This follows careful consideration by the Scottish Government of the relevant factors considering the advice of the Medical Undergraduate Group.

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that there is a sufficient supply of medical students coming through the system to meet projected medical workforce numbers and ensure a sustainable supply for the future. To this end the 2021 Programme for Government (PfG) committed to increasing medical school places by 500 over the lifetime of this Parliament and doubling the number of widening access places.

In 2021-22 the first tranche of this commitment was delivered through over recruitment by medical schools. In 2022-23 the second tranche of 100 students were added, with these places being distributed between the innovative courses including ScotGEM, HCP Med, the Aberdeen GP track course, as well as increases to widening access places and the core intake. For 2023-24 The Scottish Government recommends that the medical undergraduate intake is increased by 100 further places.

Ministers remain committed to growing the number of Scottish domiciled medical students studying at Scottish universities as a policy priority, and as you may be aware, the Scottish Government and SFC are jointly taking forward a piece of work examining how the Scottish domiciled and widening access applicant pool can be increased. The focus on delivering this outcome has, however, shifted to increasing widening access places, pre-medical school places and other interventions targeted at Scottish domiciled students rather than setting a target for minimum number of Scottish domiciled students. Universities should, however, note that the Scottish Government wishes the SFC to continue to monitor the number of Scots domiciled students studying medicine in Scotland, including as a proportion of overall medical school intake.

Given the significant increase in intake targets through the implementation of the PfG commitment, and at the request of the Universities, a degree of flexibility in the recruitment of rUK students will be permitted for this academic year only, with 38 additional rUK students allowed to be recruited by the medical schools compared to 2022-23.

Should medical schools foresee any difficulties in meeting the targets for 2023-24 beyond normal tolerance levels then they should make this known at the earliest opportunity.

Given the significant increase in home grown student numbers, and the need to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in medical schools and NHS clinical placements for those additional students, it is recommended that international student intake numbers remain at 2022-23 levels.

The Scottish Government recommends that the medical undergraduate intake for 2023-24 should be as follows:

- Scots/rUK/RoI/Gibraltar – 1,339
- International (incl. EU) – 78
- **Overall Intake – 1,417**

This intake represents an increase of 100 places above the 2022-23 overall intake target of 1,317. The 100 are additional places to be distributed as follows:

- Core intake – 75
- Widening Access – 25

The specific allocation of these places, as agreed by the Medical Undergraduate Group, is outlined in the table below.

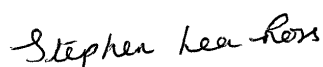
Institution	Total number of additional places	Number of these places reserved for widening access
University of Aberdeen	22	7
University of Dundee	22	7
University of Edinburgh	23	8
University of Glasgow	23	8
University of St Andrews	10	0*

*Following recommendations at the 2023 Medical Undergraduate Group St Andrews overall widening access intake target was reduced by 5 students, with these places redistributed amongst the four other universities. Therefore, St Andrews have received 0 additional widening access students for 2023-24, and the total number of widening access places shown in this table is 30 to account for this redistribution.

This brings the total number of places reserved for Widening Access students to 115. In order to meet this criteria students should be from a SIMD 20 and/or from a care experience background. The intake on the pre-medical entry courses at Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities will remain unchanged for 2023-24.

I would be grateful if the Scottish Funding Council would now make the necessary arrangements for the 2023-24 intake.

Yours sincerely



Dr Stephen Lea-Ross
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