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Scottish Funding Council
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11 March 2021

Dear Karen

PRE-REGISTRATION BSc PARAMEDIC EDUCATION

This letter is to advise the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) of the Scottish Government Health & Social Care Directorate's (SGHD) proposal on the recommended intake target for the BSc Paramedic Education programmes for Academic Year (AY) 2021-22.

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that there is an adequate supply of paramedics coming through the system to meet projected workforce numbers and ensure a sustainable workforce for the future.

The total overall recommended intake target for the second cohort of students to be admitted to the new paramedic education programmes will be 300 Scottish domiciled students.

Ministers consider that the funded places allocated by SFC for students on year 1 of the programme should be similar to the intake target for each university, with funded places for year 2 to be based on projections of continuing students. As has been previously agreed, the programme will be funded at SFC's price group 4 in AY 2021-22, with the total funding requirement to be agreed between SFC and SGHD in due course. SGHD will transfer 62% of the AY funding required to SFC through the Autumn/Spring Budget Revision process for Financial Year (FY) 2021-22, with the balance to be transferred in FY 2022-23.

The SFC should monitor the paramedic education programme through their annual Early and Final Statistics Returns, collecting information on both the annual intake and total number of students enrolled on the programme.

We recognise that AY 2020-21 was an extremely challenging year and that this was reflected in student recruitment to Paramedic Education. In AY 2021-22, however, it is our expectation that universities should make every effort to recruit to the intake targets in this letter. SFC



should recover funds from universities who under-recruit eligible students against funded places by more than 3% and apply penalties to universities who exceed their consolidation number by more than 10%, subject to the consideration of any mitigating evidence presented by the university.

The recommended intake in this letter is for Scottish domiciled students. Institutions are at liberty to accept rest of UK (rUK), European Union (EU) and International students but SFC should not provide funding for these students unless they are EU students with citizens' rights in terms of the EU Withdrawal Agreement. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has seen a disruption to NMAHP students' practice learning across Scotland. Managing future placement capacity means that universities should discuss any recruitment above the intake target with the Scottish Ambulance Service and placement providers.

In AY 2020/21 the Scottish Government instructed SAAS to allow students with a previous degree to have their tuition fees paid, exceptionally, for the full 3 years of the programme for those students with a previous degree starting on programmes in 2020/21. For AY 2021/22 and any subsequent years we will expect students' fees to be claimed in line with SAAS guidance.

The SAAS guidance can be found at <https://www.saas.gov.uk/full-time/funding-information-undergraduate> There is specific guidance on further study on previous study specifically in relation to AHP courses which can be found at: <https://www.saas.gov.uk/guides/previous-study>

I would be grateful if the SFC would now make the necessary arrangements for the 2021 intake, including to continue to work closely with SGHD officials and those within Scottish Government Higher Education policy to ensure developments are well aligned to the widening access work taking place in Scotland.

This letter is copied to University Principals, Heads of Schools for Paramedicine (or equivalent) of the relevant HEIs, the Council of Deans Health (Scotland), Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Education for Scotland, Director General Health and Social Care, Director General Education and Justice, Lorna Gibbs, Roddy Macdonald and Pamela McBride, Higher Education.

Yours sincerely,

Cath Henderson

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