

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/05685/14

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

12 January 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 22 December on behalf of the Committee about student loan payments in the final year of training.

I can confirm that support for healthcare students is tailored to include funding for any additional weeks of study specific to their course. Although these students are only entitled to a reduced rate of maintenance loan this is because they are eligible to apply for a means tested NHS bursary. 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.

The student finance arrangements take account of a number of factors when considering eligibility for loan payments, including the award of NHS bursaries. It is worth noting that students on NHS funded courses do not have to pay tuition fees and are also eligible to apply for non means-tested help with travel costs.

You will be aware of the ongoing Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance Arrangements in Wales (Diamond Review), due to report next year, and the Health Investment Review which will be reporting shortly. It is likely that both these reviews will consider student finance arrangements, although of course it will be for panel members to decide those areas on which they will concentrate. They are cognisant of each other's work and I will ensure that your letter is brought to the attention of both Panel chairs.

Yours sincerely

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Huw.Lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper