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Dear Karen

PRE-REGISTRATION BSc PARAMEDIC EDUCATION

This letter is to advise the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) of the Scottish Government's (SG) proposal on the recommended intake target for the BSc Paramedic Education programmes which are to commence in Academic Year (AY) 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26.

The total overall recommended intake target to paramedic education programmes will be 335 Scottish domiciled students in each academic year. Whilst this letter advises the SFC of SG's student intake recommendation until AY 2025-26, Ministers reserve the right to review and alter intake targets should this be required.

As with previous years, Ministers consider that the funded places allocated by the SFC should be similar to the intake target for each university. I have set out below the Universities and intake targets for each institution. Institutions should ensure they recruit students within the limits of their intake target.

Table 1

University	Intake Target for AY 2023-24	Intake Target for AY 2024-25	Intake Target for AY 2025-26
Glasgow Caledonian University	67	67	67
Queen Margaret University Edinburgh	67	67	67
Robert Gordon University	67	67	67
University of Stirling	67	67	67
University of the West of Scotland	67	67	67

As agreed, in AY 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26, SFC will model the required number of funded places for each new intake and for the continuing cohorts of eligible students. Subject to confirmation of the number of funded places each year SG will transfer the required funding for each financial year (the AY allocation will be split on a 62% / 38% basis).

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 anticipate that performance monitoring of the delivery of the education program will also be conducted by NHS Education Scotland (NES) as part of their commitment to provide leadership for the delivery of high quality education, training and workforce development and to improve the range, quality and granularity of workforce data. NES will continue to collect information from universities on an annual basis, the results of which shall be reported to the Scottish Government. We will work collaboratively with NES on the detail of that reporting and write to all parties in due course to set out reporting requirements moving forward.

SFC should recover funds for under-enrolment against funded student places and impose a penalty for over recruitment against the consolidation number. In doing so 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%.

The recommended intake in this letter is for Scottish domiciled students. Institutions are at liberty to accept rest of UK (rUK) and International students but the SFC should not provide funding for these students, and universities must discuss any recruitment above the intake target with NES, the Scottish Ambulance Service and placement providers.

I would be grateful if the SFC can now make the necessary arrangements for the 2023-24 intake, including to continue to work closely with SG, CNOD officials and those within SG Higher Education policy to ensure developments are well aligned to the widening access work taking place in Scotland.

This letter is copied to Universities Principals, Heads of Schools of the relevant HEIs, the Council of Deans Health (Scotland), NHS Education for Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, Student Awards Agency Scotland, Director General Health and Social Care, Director General Education, Communities and Justice, and Directors of Advanced Learning and Science.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Birch
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Scottish Government