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Karen Watt
Chief Executive
Scottish Funding Council
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Edinburgh
EH12 5HD

6 April 2023

Dear Ms Watt

PRE REGISTRATION NURSING AND MIDWIFERY UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

This letter is to advise the Scottish Funding Council of the Scottish Government Health & Social Care Directorate's proposals on recommended intake targets for nursing and midwifery undergraduate programmes for academic year 2023/24.

Having considered all of the factors involved, Scottish Ministers have determined that the overall intake for all pre-registration nursing and midwifery programmes should be maintained at the same levels as AY 2022/23 of **4,837** nursing and midwifery student places. The intake target is for students eligible for 'Home fee' status, rest of UK students and students from the Republic of Ireland. The figures will also hold, subject to an annual review for a multi-year period of 3 years to give stability to the Higher Education Institutions and taking into account capacity of our Board partners to manage student placements.

Recommended intake targets, by institution and fields of nursing and midwifery, are set out in the Annex to this letter (target intakes for Honours programmes, listed separately, are included in the total numbers). The distribution by institution and field / programme follows direct discussions between NHS Education for Scotland and higher education institutions regarding feasible target intakes, and taking consideration of regional needs.

It is our expectation that universities should make every effort to recruit to the intake targets in this letter however we are acutely aware that there was a shortfall against target for funded places in AY 22/23 and applications for AY 23/24 are already less than expected at this time, as confirmed by UCAS. HEI partners are therefore expressing real and legitimate concerns around recruiting to target and the risk of financial penalty.

Normally SFC would 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. In light of the real risk of under-recruitment due to application numbers, we propose that under-recruitment is not penalised for AY 22/23 and AY 23/24. This arrangement is only applicable where universities can evidence concerted

efforts to recruit to agreed targets and we would be happy to discuss this in more detail with you. We understand that a similar arrangement is in place for controlled teacher training places.

Subject to discussions with the SFC over the calculation of the fundable student population and confirmation of the funding for session 2023/24, we will transfer the appropriate level of funding required for 2023/24.

Although new rUK students will be applying for tuition fee and living cost loans from their respective home country, these students are included within the target intake numbers for 2023/24. rUK students who commenced from 2017-18 onwards should not be included in the fundable student population, and should not be funded through SFC allocations. The SFC should continue to monitor the overall fundable student population based on changes in rUK numbers in consultation with institutions. EU students not ordinarily resident in the UK starting their courses in the 2023/24 academic year are ineligible for funding and will be treated as international students. Republic of Ireland students coming to Scotland to study will also be ineligible for funding but will have access to a tuition fee loan from the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) of up to £9,250 each year.

Scottish domiciled students should apply to SAAS for their tuition fees, and the SFC should no longer fund nursing and midwifery at the gross teaching price. Continuing EU students who commenced their studies in the 2020/21 academic year or earlier will continue to be funded by the SFC for both tuition fees and teaching grant until the completion of their programmes.

This letter is copied as per the copy list below. Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss any aspect of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Jessica McPherson

Jessica McPherson
Unit Head
Chief Nursing Officer Directorate

Copy List

University Principals, Heads of Schools of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences
Convener, Council of Deans of Health (Scotland)
Chief Executive, NHS Education for Scotland
Director General Health and Social Care
Director General Education and Justice

Annex A

Proposed Intake Targets

Recommended intake targets for 2023/24

2023 distribution							
	Adult	Mental Health	Children & Young People	Learning Disability	Midwifery	TOTAL	Intake target for 4 year Honours Degree (included in total)
Abertay University	-	78	-	-	-	78	78
Dundee University	420	112	57	-	-	589	
Edinburgh University	64	-	-	-	-	64	64
Edinburgh Napier University	440	134	101	60	109 (inc 20*)	844	
Glasgow University	55	-	-	-	-	55	55
Glasgow Caledonian University	518	110	103	98	-	829	71
Open University	86	88	6	8	-	188	
Queen Margaret University	88	-	-	-	-	88	88
Robert Gordon University	281	80	55	-	81	497	43
Stirling University	285	104	-	-	-	389	62
University of the Highlands & Islands	118	20	-	-	-	138	
University of the West of Scotland	777	190	-	-	111	1078	
Total	3132	916	322	166	301	4837	461

* 20 midwifery students allocated to shortened programme