Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref EM/04238/22

Professor Patrick Maxwell Chair of the Medical Schools Council Medical Schools Council

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23 January 2023

Dear Professor Maxwell,

Thank you for your letter of 1 December regarding concerns with the financial difficulties faced by medical students in Wales.

The NHS Bursary Programme Board has met three times and work is progressing, which will consider a range of viable options for the future of the bursary scheme. The aim of the review is to not only ensure that the Welsh NHS Bursary scheme continues to offer a competitive and comparable package against other schemes and countries, but also to incentivise individuals following qualification to work within the health and care sector in Wales.

You referenced the aims of the Doctors' Association and the Liveable Bursary Campaign, and I have noted the steps you have outlined in relation to maintenance loans and travel & accommodation expenses. The outcome of the bursary review will help direct future policy to ensure that measures are taken to address these issues. You have also referred to the NHS Learning Support Fund, although this is unique to students studying in England, again the review will ensure that any equivalent scheme in Wales is competitive compared with other nations.

In a climate of increasing living costs, I recognise the impact this is having on medical students, and I do not underestimate the financial commitment needed in undertaking higher education.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

M. Z. Maga

Eluned Morgan AS/MS Y Gweinidog lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Minister for Health and Social Services