



Ein cyf/Our ref EM/04238/22

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

clare.owen@medschools.ac.uk

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.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services