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Francesca Osowska
Chief Executive
Scottish Funding Council
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04 April 2025

Dear Francesca

The Scottish Government writes annually to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) regarding intake numbers for medical schools in Scotland. This follows careful consideration by the Scottish Government of the relevant factors considering the advice of the Medical Undergraduate Group.

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that there is a sufficient supply of medical students coming through the system to ensure a sustainable supply for the future. To this end the 2021 Programme for Government (PfG) committed to increasing medical school places by 500 over the lifetime of this Parliament. The first three tranches of the commitment have been fulfilled with 100 students being added AY2021/22, AY2022/23 and AY 2023/24, respectively. The commitment was paused in AY 2024/25.

Following discussion and agreement at the Medical Undergraduate Group on 22 January 2025, and with approval from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, the intake target for AY 2025/26 will not be increased further and as such the total target intake will remain at 1,417.

Ministers remain committed to growing the number of Scottish domiciled medical students studying at Scottish universities as a policy priority. Universities should note that the Scottish Government wishes the SFC to continue to monitor the number of Scots domiciled students studying medicine in Scotland, including as a proportion of the overall medical schools intake.

Given the continued over recruitment of international students, the Scottish Government would like to consider how this can be managed and would ask that the SFC closely monitor the number of international students in the system.

Should medical schools foresee any difficulties in meeting the targets for AY 2025/26 beyond normal tolerance levels then they should make this known at the earliest opportunity.

The Scottish Government recommends that the medical undergraduate intake for AY 2025/26 should be as follows:

- Scots/rUK/Rol/Gibraltar – 1,339
- International (incl. EU) – 78
- **Overall Intake – 1,417**

The University of St. Andrews will recruit to ScotCOM (Year 1) for the first time in AY 2025/26; from within their overall intake target they can recruit up to 55 students each year who would previously have been recruited to the Scottish/rUK/Rol/Gibraltar route.

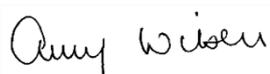
In the 2021 PfG the Scottish Government committed to double the number of widening access (WA) places from 60 to 120. As of the 2023-24 there was 110 WA places. Given the increases in previous years, for 2024-25, the Scottish Government will maintain this target at 110 places in 2024/25, the distribution of places also remains the same. This is detailed in the table below.

AY 2025-26 total widening access intake	
University of Aberdeen	24
University of Dundee	24
University of Edinburgh	25
University of Glasgow	25
University of St. Andrews	12
Total	110

In order to meet this criteria students should be from a SIMD 20 and/or from a care experience background. The intake on the pre-medical entry courses at Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities will remain unchanged for 2025/26.

I would be grateful if the Scottish Funding Council would now make the necessary arrangements for the 2025/26 intake.

Yours sincerely



Amy Wilson
Interim Director of Health Workforce
Health Workforce Directorate