

REVIEW OF HSC BURSARY SCHEME IN NORTHERN IRELAND:

CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE ON A PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE HSC STUDENT BURSARIES

You can respond to the consultation document by e-mail, letter or fax.

Before you submit your response, please read Appendix 1 about the effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

Responses should be sent to:

E-mail: wpu@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Written: Non Medical Human Resources Directorate
Room D1,
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3SQ

Fax: (028) 905 22912

Responses must be received no later than

I am responding: as an individual
on behalf of an organisation
(please tick a box)

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

e-mail: _____

Proposals within the Bursary Review

Q1. Do you agree with the Department's rationale for proposing to reduce Student Bursaries for Nursing and Midwifery? YES/NO

If no, please explain.

Q2. What are your views on the Department's proposal to reduce the Nursing and Midwifery Bursary by £890?

Please explain

Q.3. What are your views on the Department's proposal to remove the one-off payment of Book and Uniform Allowance for Nursing and Midwifery students?

Please explain

Q.4 What are your views on the Department's intention to examine the potential for changing the Nursing and Midwifery Bursary to a means-testing system?

Please explain

Q.5 Taking account of the content of this document are there any other important issues not addressed? YES/NO

If YES please explain.

Q.6 Are there any other issues you would like to draw to the Department's attention in this consultation?

If YES please explain

Equality implications

Q7. Do you think the proposals are likely to have an adverse impact on any of the nine equality groups identified under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998? If yes, please state the group or groups and provide comment on how these adverse impacts could be reduced or alleviated in the proposals

Yes No

Response:

Q8. Are you aware of any evidence, qualitative or quantitative, that the proposals may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations? If yes, please give details and comment on what you think should be added or removed to alleviate the adverse impact.

Yes No

Response:

Q9. Could the proposals better promote equality of opportunity or good relations?
If yes, please give details as to how.

Yes No

Response:

Q10. Are there any aspects of this action plan/Policy where potential human rights violations may occur?

Yes No

Response:

Yes No

Response:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS.

Appendix 1

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office at

Information Commissioner's Office Northern Ireland

51 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8FE

Tel: 028 9026 9380

Fax: 028 9026 9388

Email: ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>