

Dear Ms McVie

Thank you for inviting CHMS to respond to the Scottish Executive's proposal that it should introduce a separate flat-rate fee for non-Scottish EU

students studying at Scottish Medical Schools.

It is true that CHMS members in England have agreed that it is desirable for their parent universities to seek the maximum fee of £3000 per annum in order that they might adequately invest in teaching and research. They will however be looking to provide bursaries to support candidates from disadvantaged backgrounds.

CHMS is put in a somewhat difficult position by your request as it is a pan-UK organisation that gains strength from reflecting, in a unified

manner the views from all four countries.

CHMS notes that the funds thus raised will not be used to the benefit of the individual medical schools, but will instead underwrite the loans given to cover Scottish students' top-up fees in England. We do therefore feel at liberty to question the legality of such a move. Universities in Scotland benefit

from funds raised from taxation throughout the UK. Is it therefore correct to discriminate against English, Northern Irish and Welsh students in the

manner proposed?

Against this we must weigh the benefit to Scottish Medical Schools if you were to invest further in them and were to support efforts to widen access to the medical profession from Scottish students from disadvantaged backgrounds. - CHMS would support such initiatives

We do have a further concern about the practical implementation of your scheme to cover the loans of Scottish students studying in England. We had understood that under current regulations when you commit to such payments they must be entered as a liability on your Balance sheet with possible disadvantageous consequences.

We trust this is helpful

Katie Petty-Saphon

Dr Katie Petty-Saphon
Executive Director, Council of Heads of Medical Schools
Direct tel +44 (0)20 7419 5495 Fax +44 (0)20 7380 1482
Email Katie.Petty-Saphon@CHMS.ac.uk

Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HD
Web <http://www.chms.ac.uk>