

Ann

In response to your letter of 1st September, I can confirm that the proposed new fee regime - including the idea of a higher flat-rate fee for medicine - will not give rise to operational problems for SAAS. This is because our system for fee payment is almost entirely automated and can readily be updated with new rates when required.

On the finance front, I am assuming that any higher fees for medicine would be treated in the same way as the general fee increase by a transfer of funding from SHEFC to SAAS. Additional fee income from RUK students would presumably be added to the central pot.

The principle of the higher fee for medicine seems defensible but does move a little away from the line FfL have been upholding that recruitment difficulties should not be addressed through student support. However, that may not matter if the medical situation is unique and will not give rise to claims from other employment sectors for similar protection or special treatment.

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