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SCOTTISH
QUALIFICATIONS
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Our ref: AC/DMcN/EM

20 May 2005

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Dear Ms Carson

Response to the 'Cross Border Student Flows: Higher Education Tuition Fee Levels' Consultation

Thank you for inviting the SQA to contribute to the consultation on Cross Border Student Flows: Higher Education Tuition Fee Levels.

SQA would share the concern that Scottish domiciled students are not disadvantaged in any way as a result of the introduction of variable tuition fees in the rest of the UK from 2006; we would agree that the interests of Scottish students – especially medical – should be protected. However, given Scotland's declining population, we should also try to ensure that Scotland remains an attractive destination for students and those wishing to settle here. Furthermore, it should be borne in mind that widening access to further and higher education to those from lower socio-economic backgrounds is also a key aim.

In essence, while SQA agrees with the Implementation Advisory Group's proposal to keep the current level of tuition fees for HNC/HNDs in Scotland under review, it would be inappropriate for us to comment further on the level at which general tuition fees for undergraduate degrees should be set.

Yours sincerely

Anton Colella
Chief Executive

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