

North Lanarkshire Council Education Department welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on cross-border student flows. The general principles and processes outlined by the Deputy First Minister appear to be appropriate in order to ensure fairness of access to places in Scottish universities for Scottish students.

Regarding the specific questions featured in the consultation, the responses which this department would advance are as follow:

Summary of Questions

Annex A

General Tuition Fees

Question - do you agree with the principles on which the general fee level should be based? **YES**

Question - at what level should general tuition fees be set for 2006-07? **£1200**

Self Funded Scottish Domiciled Students

Question - should any self funded Scottish or non-UK EU domiciled students be protected from the increased level of tuition fees? **YES**

Question - if you agree, which categories of Scottish and non-UK EU domiciled students should be protected from the increased level of tuition fee? **as at present**

Medical Tuition Fees

Question - do you agree with the principle of using tuition fee levels to protect the interests of Scottish domiciled students by setting fee levels for medicine that are broadly comparable with those being set elsewhere in the UK? **YES**

Question - if you agree, at what level should tuition fees for medical courses be set? **as proposed in para 44**

Implications for FE

Question - do you agree that the Executive should retain current tuition fee levels for HNs? **YES**

Transitional Arrangements

Question - do you agree that gap year students should be treated as having entered HE in 2005-06, ie prior to the planned changes taking effect? **YES**

While agreeing with the recommendations of the Implementation Advisory Group, it is noted that the membership of IAG did not include local authority education departments. This, we suggest, would have been desirable, as managers and officers of local education authorities have much insight to offer in this context. We would strongly recommend that any completed draft of the document which is produced as a result of this consultation process should be the subject of a number of seminars to be conducted following the collation of the responses with a view to securing as comprehensive a picture as possible of the proposed way forward, based on all relevant factors.