



Ms Charmian Runciman,  
Scottish Executive Health Board,  
St. Andrew's House,  
1ER  
Regent Road,  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**Napier Students'  
Association**  
12 Merchiston Place  
Edinburgh  
EH10 4NR

Tel: 0131 229 8791  
Fax: 0131 228 3462  
Email: [nsa@napier.ac.uk](mailto:nsa@napier.ac.uk)  
[www.napierstudents.com](http://www.napierstudents.com)

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Dear Ms Runciman,

### **Prescription Charges**

On behalf on Napier Students Association I would like to make the following response to the consultation on the review of NHS Prescription Charges and Exemption Arrangements in Scotland.

NSA supports the objective of extending prescription exemption to all full time students. However, there is a realisation that the cost of this may be very high.

In the interim it would support the following targeted measures:  
Reviewing/expanding the current exemption list of chronic conditions – in this way, those with long term and recurring medication needs will be assisted. This should be coupled with proposed exemption for students currently entitled to claim benefits and concessionary rates for the rest of the full time student population.

NSA is opposed to extending prescription exemption on an age basis –in this case up to 24 – because it is inherently discriminatory against mature students. Many people are working and have reasonable disposable income by their early-mid 20s and are able to pay charges, whereas others above this age threshold may be in circumstances where they are less well off but would not qualify for exemption. Around a quarter of Napier University's students are classed as mature on entry and share very similar financial circumstances as their younger colleagues. NSA – and NUS Scotland - are currently campaigning against age discrimination in relation to the exclusion of mature students from Lothian Regional Transport's student concessionary bus travel charges. I am sure that prescription charge exemption on the same unfair basis were it introduced, would prompt a similar campaign against age discrimination in this area.

Yours Sincerely,

*A. Kirsteen Kershaw*

A.Kirsteen Kershaw  
NSA Welfare Adviser

Nothing on this paper constitutes an order unless accompanied by an official order form.

Charity Registration Number: SC012506

VAT Number: 270-7943-40

## RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM: REVIEW OF NHS PRESCRIPTION CHARGES AND EXEMPTION ARRANGEMENTS IN SCOTLAND

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

Name:

Postal Address:

1. Are you responding: (please tick one box)
- (a) as an individual  go to Q2a/b and then Q4
- (b) **on behalf of** a group/organisation  go to Q3 and then Q4

### INDIVIDUALS

- 2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)

No, not at all  We will treat your response as confidential

- 2b. **Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

### ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

- 3 The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website). Are you also content for your **response** to be made available?

Yes

No  We will treat your response as confidential

### SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

- 4 We will share your response internally with other Scottish Executive policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No