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To all those invited to the
Nursing and Midwifery stakeholder meeting on
5 November 2008

Your ref:
Our ref:

16 December 2008

Dear Colleague

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY WORKFORCE PLANNING PROCESS 2008: STUDENT NURSE AND MIDWIFE INTAKE 2009/10

I am extremely grateful to everybody who contributed to the nursing and midwifery workforce planning process this year, both in the run up to and at the stakeholder meeting at the Scottish Health Services Centre in Edinburgh on 5 November. From my perspective, that meeting was very constructive and, as agreed, my colleagues and I reflected carefully on the range of views put forward on the day and have discussed them fully with the Chief Nursing Officer and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing.

Having considered all of the factors involved, the Cabinet Secretary has now decided on the student nurse and midwife intake figures for 2009/10. In overall terms, the Cabinet Secretary has taken the view that there would be wider benefits from a period of stability in the system over the period in question and that the overall intake number should therefore be held at the 2008/9 level. There will be some variation within specific branches as shown in the following table:

	Adult	Children	Mental Health	Learning Disability	Midwifery	TOTAL
2009/10	2211	203	404	60	182	3060
2008/09	2247	203	340	50	220	3060

These numbers broadly reflect the direction of travel preferred by the stakeholder group on 5 November. In particular, the general sense from that meeting was that proposed figures put to it for Adult, Children and Mental Health were probably too low (they have been increased), the proposed number for Learning Disability was perceived as probably too high (it has been reduced) and the proposed number for Midwifery was regarded as about right (we have made no change).

Maintaining the overall 2009/10 intake at 2008/9 levels can be met from within existing resources and we have therefore passed the above figures onto the Scottish Funding Council in order to allow planning to begin with the relevant HEIs.

I hope you will find this helpful and thank you again for your input to the process.

Yours sincerely

RICKY VERRALL
Head, Workforce Planning and Development Unit