



T: 0131-244-3323
E: directorofhealthworkforce@gov.scot

Gillian Martin MSP
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
(By email)

30th March 2023

Dear Gillian

I am writing to you to inform you of a short, informal consultation being launched by the Scottish Government which relates to the 2021-22 Programme for Government commitment to increase the number of medical students by 500 over the lifetime of this parliament.

I have attached the consultation to this email for your information.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Russell
Director of Workforce



T: 0131-244-3323
E: directorofhealthworkforce@gov.scot

I am writing to you to inform you of a short, informal consultation being launched by the Scottish Government.

As part of the 2021 Programme for Government, the Scottish Government committed to add 500 additional medical school places over the lifetime of this Parliament. The first 200 places have been delivered in the academic years 21/22 and 22/23, with a further 100 places being added in 23/24.

To allocate the final 200 places we intend to take a different approach and run a process open to all higher education institutions in Scotland. The purpose of this consultation is to allow all stakeholders to provide feedback on a range of issues. Draft criteria for the process and specific questions for consultation are included in the Annex to this letter.

It should be noted that there will be no capital or start-up funding available to support bids but full Scottish Funding Council and Additional Cost of Teaching funding for the students will be available.¹ Consultation questions relating to bids should be answered on that basis

The responses to this consultation will be analysed by the Scottish Government and used to inform next steps.

As part of the consultation process officials would be happy to meet with you to discuss your views and initial plans. If you wish to arrange a meeting, please contact Liam.Gibson@gov.scot or Stella.Smith@gov.scot.

Written responses should be submitted by email to Matthew.Hanley@Gov.Scot no later than 12 May 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Liam or Stella at the email address noted above.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Russell
Director of Workforce



¹ Scottish Funding Council Funding is provided at price group 3 rates of £8,887 (including SAAS Fees) in years 1 and 2, and at price group 1 rates of £17,673 (including SAAS fees) in years 3-5. Additional Cost of Teaching Funding is provided at the rate of 19,500 per student in years 3-5.

ANNEX A

Draft bidding criteria

We are seeking a portfolio of bids which will deliver the following outcomes:

- I. Align undergraduate expansion to areas of Scotland that are under-served for healthcare including deprived and remote and rural areas.
- II. Support teaching, research, and practice in areas of Scotland that are under-served for healthcare including deprived and remote and rural areas.
- III. Support GP, psychiatry, care of the elderly and community-based learning in all aspects of the curriculum.
- IV. Increase the number of widening access students (SIMD 20 and care experienced) studying medicine at Scottish universities.
- V. Increase the number and proportion of Scottish domiciled students studying medicine at Scottish universities.
- VI. Ensure sufficient provision of high-quality educational placements.
- VII. Encourage innovation in educational models and use of technology building on the lessons learned from the pandemic.

Questions for consultation

We would be particularly interested in receiving comments on:

- 1. The proposed criteria (above) that will be used to evaluate bids.**
- 2. If you wish to submit a bid, the timeline in which this bid could be delivered. Specifically, it would be helpful to receive feedback on what could be delivered were the Scottish Government to ask that students start in the academic year 2025/26, as well as what it would be possible to deliver over a longer timescale.**
- 3. Whether medical apprenticeships could be delivered as part of your bid.²**
- 4. How the Scottish Government can ensure a level playing field for any Higher Education Institution in Scotland that does not currently have a medical school to submit a bid.**
- 5. Any other comments or feedback you think may be relevant.**

² [Medical Doctor Degree Apprenticeship | Health Education England \(hee.nhs.uk\)](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/medical-doctor-degree-apprenticeship)