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David McColl
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24th February 2021

Dear Mr McColl

Thank you for your letter dated 16th February addressed to Mr Swinney and Ms Freeman, regarding student support for rUK, EU, international and final year Aberdeen students. As Chief Dental Officer, I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Regarding your query around those not normally domiciled within Scotland: the bursary fund as announced was always intended to cover those students, and will do so. I understand the Deans of the universities in question have reassured the students on this point.

As to the issue regarding final year Aberdeen students, I know you appreciate the significant impact Covid-19 has had on all students across many disciplines. Many of these will need to defer graduation. As such, final year Aberdeen students were rolled into a wider discussion around student support, and the intention was always to offer these final year students financial support. I am pleased to tell you that we can now confirm Aberdeen final year students will be offered the same bursary support as other BDS students on a pro rata basis for the extra months they have to complete. Full details are being provided direct to the students through their Dean.

We trust this reassures you and your members.

Regards

