

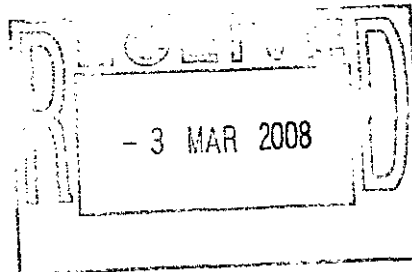
Jane Hutt AC/AM

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-081
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00133/08



Val Lloyd AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

27 February 2008

Dear Val,

PETITION – AMENDING STUDENT SUPPORT REGULATIONS

Thank you for your letter of 24 January from the Petitions Committee concerning the course exemptions list in the current student support regulations which allows those students already possessing an honours degree to qualify for a maintenance loan.

Government Departments were last consulted at the end of 2006, and the result was the list you describe in your letter, specifically those health-based courses which attract an NHS bursary. The Department of Health (DH) reviews this list annually using data on healthcare labour market supply and demand, although, as you say, Optometry and Pharmacy are excluded from the list. I have asked my officials to liaise with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and DH to ascertain the status of these specific areas.

We are also looking at the status of landscape studies and town planning in relation to the 2009/10 Higher Education student support regulations, currently due to be consulted upon during summer 2008 (the 2008/09 regulations were consulted upon last year and are due to come into force on 30 April 2008).

I have also instigated an internal review of all student support products across further and higher education in Wales and hope to make an announcement later this year.

Best wishes,

Jane

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8475
Correspondence: Jane.Hutt@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

Printed on 100% recycled paper