



Department  
of Health &  
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Rt Hon Meg Hillier MP  
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 9NA

02<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Dear Chair,

**GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE:  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUNDING FOR REGISTERED NURSING DEGREE  
APPRENTICESHIPS (10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST)**

I am writing in response to your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> September about the recent announcement on 10<sup>th</sup> August on funding available to employers hosting a Registered Nursing Degree Apprentice. You asked that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) provide the following information.

**a) the name, purpose or objective of the spending proposal your department is providing funds for, how much your department is contributing, and how much you expect other departments to contribute;**

The purpose of this funding is to support employers of Nurse Degree Apprentices with the costs of training both existing nurse apprentices and future ones joining the apprenticeship programme.

The Conservative Manifesto included a commitment to deliver 50,000 more nurses. This funding announcement of £8,300 per apprentice, per year is designed to increase the number of nurse apprentices starting training to 2,000 a year.

Nurse degree apprenticeships provide a route into nursing where people can train to nationally recognised standards and earn as they learn, benefiting those for whom a full-time university course is not practical or preferred. Opening access to a career in nursing to people from all backgrounds supports the Government's levelling up agenda, ensuring our future nursing workforce represent the patients they treat.

Details of the funding announcement are available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-to-double-nursing-apprentices-and-help-deliver-50-000-more-nurses>

We do not expect other departments to contribute to this announcement. In common with all employers, some employers of nurse apprentices will be eligible to access levy funding or funding announced under the “A Plan for Jobs” initiative. Most NHS employers will use their own levy funds to pay for training.

**b) the amount of funding your department intends to provide for each financial year the proposals relate to, broken down by each category of spending; (Resource DEL, Capital DEL, Resource AME, Capital AME)**

DHSC funding available to employers of Nursing Degree apprentices over the next 4 financial years is summarised below and is a total amount available to employers of up to £172m. This funding is for up to 2,000 nurse apprentices each year.

Table: Nursing Degree apprenticeship funding available 2020/21 to 2023/24 (financial years)

| 20/21 | 21/22 | 22/23 | 23/24 | Total |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| £18m  | £38m  | £53m  | £63m  | £172m |

Funding comes entirely from the DHSC Departmental Expenditure Limit and is provided to employers via HEE who are leading the programme of work.

**c) whether your department’s commitment will be met from within an already announced spending review settlement (including Spending Round 19) – and if so, how you intend to reallocate funds;**

New funding was secured as part of the Government’s manifesto commitment to achieve 50,000 more Nurses in the lifetime of this parliament.

The commitment will be met from within the settlement announced at Spring Budget 2020.

**d) if the government is committing to new, additional resources being provided with regard to your department’s contribution, how much additional funding is to be provided;**

We are not committing any additional resources or funding above the announced £172m. Health Education England are administering the programme under existing work programmes.

**e) how much, if any, of the £172m relates to the money that government has committed to pay to any employer when they take on a new apprentice. I refer here to both the £1,000 currently paid where employers take on an apprentice aged 16-18, and the further £1,500/£2,000 announced in ‘A Plan for Jobs’;**

DHSC has announced £172m funding to expand the number of nurse degree apprentices.

Her Majesty's Treasury announced separate and additional funding for employers in 'A Plan for Jobs'. Under this scheme the government has introduced a new payment of £2,000 to employers in England for each new apprentice they hire aged under 25, and a £1,500 payment for each new apprentice they hire aged 25 and over, from 1st August 2020 to 31st January 2021.

Further details of 'A Plan for Jobs 2020' is available at the following weblink:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-plan-for-jobs-documents/a-plan-for-jobs-2020>

These payments will be in addition to the existing £1,000 payment the government already provides for new 16-18-year-old apprentices, and those aged under 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan – where that applies.

#### **Employer funding - Nurse Degree Apprentice**

|                               | Over 25 | Under 25 | 16 – 18 | Under 25s with an Education, Health and Care Plan (will either benefit from £1500 or £2000 Plan for Jobs funding depending on age) |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NDA Programme<br>£8,300*      | √       | √        | √       | √                                                                                                                                  |
| Plan for jobs<br>£1500        | √       | X        | X       | √                                                                                                                                  |
| Plan for jobs<br>£2000        | X       | √        | √       | √                                                                                                                                  |
| Govt apprentice funding £1000 | X       | X        | √       | √                                                                                                                                  |
| Total employer funding        | £9,800  | £10,300  | £11,300 | £10,800 or £11,300                                                                                                                 |

\* Funding for a nurse degree apprentice is paid annually, other payments listed are one off.

**f) whether the government has committed to provide £8,300 to employers for each of the four years a nursing degree apprenticeship lasts, irrespective of the year the apprentice begins their apprenticeship;**

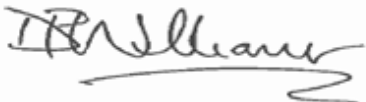
Where a Nurse Degree Apprentice is already part-way through their apprenticeship scheme, the funding of £8,300 per year is available to employers for the remainder of their apprenticeship programme. It cannot be backdated.

Funding for the full four years will be paid to employers of apprentices starting training in any year up to 2023/24. The announced £172m funding represents programme costs up to 23/24. We will undertake an evaluation of the impact of the apprenticeship funding to ensure VFM and delivery on aims of the programme before committing funding for apprentices starting training in future years past 23/24.

**g) any previous announcements which this new commitment supersedes, or to which this new commitment relates.**

This funding commitment relates to the 2019 Conservative manifesto commitment to deliver 50,000 more nurses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D Williams', with a long, horizontal, wavy underline.

**DAVID WILLIAMS CB**  
**Second Permanent Secretary**