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OPEN LETTER TO NURSING & MIDWIFERY STUDENTS ON REVISED PROGRAMME DELIVERY

As Scotland's Chief Nursing Officer, I would like to thank you all for your hard work and contribution over the past few months. I know from speaking to colleagues from across our health and care services that those of you that have been able to opt into revised programme delivery have hit the ground running and made a real difference at a critical time.

We still have work to do as we continue to respond to the pandemic. As well as offering my thanks to all of you, I would also like to take this opportunity to confirm the arrangements in place for students over the coming months and provide reassurance that the Scottish Government position has not changed.

If you are a final year student, your contract for undertaking paid placement will come to an end on the 30 September. Your contract may be terminated earlier by mutual agreement with your employer if you qualify and are admitted onto the Nursing and Midwifery Council before this date.

If you are a second year nursing or midwifery student, or a third year Honours student, your contract will come to an end on the 31 August. The timing for the termination of fixed term contracts has been designed to enable students to commence the upcoming academic term and return to supernumerary placements. However, we will not yet be back to normal and I am expecting that there may be some adjustments required to the scheduling of supernumerary placements, recognising that our health and care services will still be responding to the continuing pandemic. The Scottish Government is working closely with NHS Education for Scotland and health and care services to minimise any disruption to students.

You may be aware that the Nursing and Midwifery Council has now confirmed that the emergency education standards which have allowed students to temporarily join the workforce to undertake paid placements will be lifted as of 30 September 2020. I should point out that this will not interfere with the recommencing of supernumerary placements from September.



For students who have not opted into paid placement, your HEI will be in touch with you to discuss arrangements for catching up on placement time where required. The Scottish Government is also putting in place measures so that no one will be financially disadvantaged as a result of Covid-19 while completing studies; I will write to affected students in the coming days with further details on this.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your contribution. It has made a real difference in these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Fiona McQueen
Chief Nursing Officer