

Lewis Macdonald MSP  
Convener  
Health and Sport Committee

By email.

25 August 2020

Dear Lewis

### **Covid-19: Death in Service Benefit for Higher Education Institute Students.**

I wrote to you on 14 July to provide an update on the **NHS Scotland and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme 2020**, and to advise that I intended to extend this scheme to cover students from Higher Education Institutes who undertake clinical placements on NHS premises. The majority of these placements commence in September and are essential for the training and supply of the future clinical workforce to NHS Scotland. In addition similar placements take place in Social Care settings, with many containing a mix of Health and Social Care placements. I therefore feel that in order to ensure that there is no disruption to the education and supply of the future workforce, it is right that we extend the Death in Service provision to cover Higher Education Institute students in both health and social care settings.

I have decided to offer these students a temporary CV19 related death in service provision, which will consist of a single £60,000 death in service payment to a nominated dependant.

This provision will be effective immediately and will provide students and their dependants peace of mind as we re-commence essential student placements over the next few months.

**JEANE FREEMAN**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)