



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

Graeme Dey MSP
Minister for Higher and Further Education;
and Minister for Veterans
Scottish Government

T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Direct Tel: 0131 348 5222
Fax: 0131 348 5600
ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

25 May 2023

Dear Minister,

SSI 2023/142 The Education (Fees and Student Support) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023

I am writing on behalf of the Education, Children and Young People Committee in relation to SSI 2023/142 The Education (Fees and Student Support) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023.

I note your letter of 11 May setting out some background information on the proposed changes, set out in the SSI, to eligibility criteria applied to students who wish to undertake a course of study in Further Education or Higher Education in Scotland.

At its meeting on 24 May 2023 the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government seeking further information in advance of its formal consideration of the regulations under the negative procedure.

To aid that consideration, the Committee would ask you to provide information on the following points—

- 1) Could the Minister set out further detail on the legal basis for the proposed changes to eligibility criteria?
- 2) For the purposes of these regulations, what is the definition of ‘ordinarily resident’?
- 3) How many Ukrainian students are currently attending colleges and universities in Scotland?

- 4) Has the UK Government provided any dedicated funding to support Ukrainian refugees studying in Scotland?
- 5) How many individuals does the Scottish Government anticipate being eligible for student support funding as a result of these regulations?
- 6) Does the Scottish Government anticipate that any increase in the number of students who are eligible for tuition fee support will be accommodated within the existing funding to cover tuition for domiciled students in Scotland?
- 7) Would students qualifying for home tuition fee rate and tuition fee support as a result of the provisions in these regulations count towards the cap on places for Scottish-domiciled students? Would applications from students qualifying under the revised criteria be considered under the widening access provisions?

The Committee would be grateful to receive a response by **Thursday 1 June 2023** to allow sufficient time for this information to be taken into account prior to its formal consideration of the regulations.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Webber MSP
Convener