



Subject:	Motion: Pay for Student Nurses – Response from Department of Health
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response on behalf of the Minister of Health to a motion on Pay for Student Nurses, which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st December.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 1st December, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Groogan and seconded by Councillor O’Hara, was passed:</p> <p>“This Council recognises the efforts of student nurses throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, stepping up to help our NHS cope with the extra pressures put on it by the pandemic and providing invaluable support to qualified nurses in our hospitals.</p> ”

	<p>This Council also notes that student nurses were paid during the first wave of the pandemic, as they should have been, in recognition of their commitment and work caring for people.</p> <p>This Council believes that student nurses should be paid a fair and proper wage for their work and agrees to write to the Minister of Health stating our support for reinstating the pay to student nurses as a matter of urgency.”</p>
3.2	A letter has been received from Mr P. Barbour, Assistant Director, Workforce Policy, on behalf of Minister Swann. A copy of the letter is attached.
3.3	Mr. Barbour refers the Council to the Minister’s announcement on 27th January, 2021 of a special recognition payment of £2,000 to all qualifying healthcare students who have been on special pre-registration programmes during the period from 1st October, 2020 to 31st March, 2021. The qualifying courses are, he points out, the nursing and midwifery, Allied Health Professions, Social Work and Physician Associate pre-registration programmes commissioned by his Department from Queen’s University and the Ulster University.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	None associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.5	None
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from Department of Health