

Nursing and Midwifery Council submission of 18 January 2024

PE2039/B: Fair pay to student nurses while on placement

Thank you for your email dated 21 December 2023. You have asked us to provide evidence to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on Petition PE2039 relating to student nurses while on placement.

I have looked into the issues raised in the petition by reviewing our remit as the regulator of Nurses and Midwives in Scotland, and the regulatory position we would take on the question of paying students while they are on placement.

Background

The Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee considered Petition PE2039: Fair pay to student nurses while on placement; Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to pay student nurses for their placement hours, at its meeting on 20 December 2023. The committee wrote to us seeking our views on the action called for in the petition. We would like the following to be considered as evidence for the committee's consideration;

- Our regulatory remit
- Our position on paying students during their placements

Our regulatory remit

We hope the committee will find it helpful to outline our regulatory role in respect of the professionals on our register, and students applying to join the register.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council is responsible for setting Nursing and Midwifery education standards, and maintaining the register of Nurses and Midwives in the United Kingdom, and Nursing Associates in England. We also investigate fitness to practise matters when the conduct or competence of a professional on our register is called into

question. You can read more about our regulatory role at [What we do - The Nursing and Midwifery Council](#).

Our position on paying students during their placements

We would gently advise the committee that the questions of student finances and pay matters (whether for students or registered professionals) is wholly outside our regulatory remit, and therefore not a matter upon which we are in a position to comment. The issues raised in this petition are matters for the relevant Scottish Government departments to address.

Conclusion

I would like to close by thanking the committee for inviting us to provide evidence on its consideration of the petition. I hope you have found our explanation of our regulatory position helpful, although I appreciate that we have not been able to address the issues raised as directly as you may have wished.