

Letter from the Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth to the Convener of 16 November 2021

Dear Kenneth

At the Finance and Public Administration Committee evidence session on the Autumn Budget Revision on 9 November, I agreed to write to the Committee to clarify the following matters raised by Daniel Johnson, MSP, and Liz Smith, MSP.

Mr Johnson asked for a further breakdown of £700m additional funding allocated to the Health and Social Care portfolio in the Autumn Budget Revision.

This funding has been allocated to the Health and Social Care Portfolio in line with the Scottish Government's commitment to pass on all health resource consequentials. This takes overall additional funding provided so far for the Health and Social Care Portfolio in 2021-22 to £1.9 billion to meet Covid-related costs such as additional staffing, personal protection equipment, test and protect, social care and remobilisation costs.

Within the portfolio funding, £862 million has been allocated to Health Boards and Integration Authorities to meet additional costs reported by them to date as part of their initial Quarter 1 financial assessment ([NHS Covid-19 funding increased - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/nhs-covid-19-funding-increased) and [Additional funding to tackle COVID-19 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/additional-funding-to-tackle-covid-19)). This includes £211 million for Test and Protect, £213 million for Covid and Flu vaccination programmes and £85 million for Personal Protective Equipment. The rest of the funding will cover costs including additional staffing to support hospital scale-up, equipment, maintenance and IT.

The Scottish Government will ensure that health and care services continue to have the support that they need throughout this pandemic. As such, further allocations will be made in line with spending requirements, with confirmation of funding arrangements to be provided by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care in due course.

Ms Smith asked whether the £5.2m transferred from the Health and Social Care portfolio to the Education and Skills portfolio in respect of additional medical student places, is for the 190 extra places which the Scottish Government announced in 2016 would be provided by 2021.

£4.7m in total will be transferred to Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in 2021-22 to cover the additional 190 places plus further places that have been added since 2016. This includes £3.8m of the £5.2m transferred to SFC at the Autumn Budget Revisions.

Ms Smith also asked for a breakdown by sector of the £20m additional funding allocated in the Autumn Budget Revision for education recovery.

£17m of the additional funding for education recovery was allocated to Higher Education and the remaining £3m was allocated to Further Education.

I hope this assists the Committee.

Tom Arthur MSP

Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth