



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

**Rt Hon. Michelle Donelan MP**  
Minister of State for Higher and Further Education

**Edward Argar MP**  
Minister of State for Health

15 October 2021

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your continued efforts in training the doctors and dentists of the future, and helping to ensure the flow of newly qualified professionals into the NHS has been uninterrupted during the pandemic.

As you will be aware, this year we saw a significant increase in demand for places in subjects across medicine and healthcare, with applications for Medicine and Dentistry increasing by 20% and more applicants for these courses meeting the terms of their offer. In response to this unprecedented situation, as a government, we made the decision to adjust intake targets and, as a result, more students than ever will be studying on these courses in 2021/22, and in the long-term help boost our future NHS workforce.

Active management of medical places is critical to ensure a sustainable pipeline of doctors to the NHS across all regions of the UK, and it is vital that as we move forward out of the pandemic that we work together to ensure intakes for these courses are sustainable and that we return to pre-pandemic levels. We are contacting you now, ahead of the deadline for Medical and Dental applications, to ensure you have all the information you need to provide transparency and support to applicants, and the approach we are setting out will enable you to do this.

Your intake target for 2022-23 will be communicated to you by the Office for Students. It is vital that you ensure that you remain within this intake target during this year's admissions cycle as these controls will not be adjusted this year under any circumstances. Any students who have deferred entry from 2021 will need to be accommodated within the intake targets communicated by the OfS. No government funding will be provided for any students over and above your intake target set by the OfS. This includes high cost subject funding from the OfS, as well as funding for placements, meaning you would be liable for the full cost of the training of any students outside of your agreed intake targets. We will also be unable to guarantee placements within the NHS for any students beyond your cap.

We understand that the last two years have presented an unprecedented situation for your admissions teams, all of whom have worked hard to adjust offer making strategies in response to the pandemic. You will have seen announcements from Ofqual around how examinations will work this year, as well as information on this

year's approach to grading. We are, however, in uncertain times, and we ask you to embrace this uncertainty and – where necessary – adjust your offer making strategies to ensure there is no risk of your being oversubscribed for medicine and dentistry in 2022-23 and beyond. We understand you will have different approaches to your admissions decisions, however we would encourage you to utilise methods such as taking a staggered approach to offer-making, offering no more than 100% of your intake target in the first instance and then filling unfilled places through reserve lists and/or clearing.

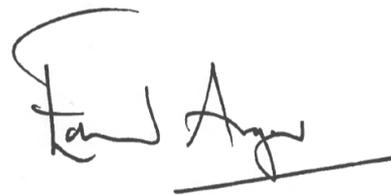
Our Departments, as well as the Office for Students and Health Education England, will work closely with you throughout the admissions cycle to support you in staying within your targets. This will include the sharing of best practice from providers who were able to remain within target in 2021, regular opportunities to come together as providers of medical and dental training and direct engagement with providers as the cycle progresses.

We thank you again for your continued efforts to train the doctors and dentists who will form the backbone of our world leading health service into the future, and look forward to working closely with you this year to deliver a smooth admissions process for next years intake.

Yours sincerely,



**Rt Hon. Michelle Donelan MP**  
**Minister of State for Higher and**  
**Further Education**



**Edward Argar MP**  
**Minister of State for Health**