

University of St. Andrews (Degrees in Medicine and Dentistry) Bill

Financial Memorandum

Introduction

1. As required under Rule 9.3.2 of the Parliament's Standing Orders, this Financial Memorandum is published to accompany the University of St. Andrews (Degrees in Medicine and Dentistry) Bill, introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 29 September 2020.
2. The following other accompanying documents are published separately:
 - Explanatory Notes (SP Bill 82-EN);
 - a Policy Memorandum (SP Bill 82-PM);
 - statements on legislative competence by the Presiding Officer and the Scottish Government (SP Bill 82-LC).
3. This Financial Memorandum has been prepared by the Scottish Government to set out the costs associated with the measures introduced by the Bill. It does not form part of the Bill and has not been endorsed by the Parliament.
4. The substantive provision of the Bill is of a technical nature and will not result in any new or additional costs or savings.
5. The Bill makes a technical amendment to the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 ("the 1966 Act"), by repealing paragraph 17 of schedule 6 (transfer of property, etc. to University of Dundee and other transitional provisions - abolition of qualifying examinations and degrees in medicine etc. in the University of St. Andrews).
6. The 1966 Act currently prohibits the University of St. Andrews ("the University") from awarding medical and dentistry degrees. The policy

objective of this Bill is to remove the prohibition as it is unfair, anti-competitive and serves no legitimate or practical purpose in today's context. The impetus for removing the prohibition at this time is to enable the University to award, jointly with the University of Dundee, undergraduate Primary UK Medical Qualifications (PMQ) to Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine (ScotGEM) MBChB¹ students. In removing the prohibition, the Bill also creates a fairer higher education sector and enables all of Scotland's valued institutions to maximise the options and opportunities they offer to students in Scotland.

7. ScotGEM is currently being delivered jointly by the Universities of Dundee and St. Andrews, in collaboration with the University of the Highlands and Islands and partner Health Boards. The first cohort of graduate students commenced in the 2018-19 academic year and are due to graduate in 2022. Should this Bill not be passed, however, the fallback position is that the ScotGEM PMQ will be awarded by the University of Dundee. Removal of the prohibition will therefore enable the University to award the ScotGEM PMQ jointly with the University of Dundee. Accordingly, no new or additional costs over and above what has already been committed for the ScotGEM programme will be incurred as a result of the prohibition being removed.

8. Beyond ScotGEM, and more generally, removal of the prohibition is not determinative of the University's ability to award medical and dentistry degrees as these are 'controlled subjects'. Whether any higher education institution, including the University, is able to offer degrees in either of these disciplines is subject to separate financial and regulatory controls and decision-making processes. These involve the Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council (SFC), NHS Education Scotland (NES), the General Medical Council and the General Dental Council, and are explained further in the Policy Memorandum.

9. The costs to the Scottish Administration associated with delivery of medical and dentistry degrees, including ScotGEM, are already committed and are not altered in any way by the provisions of this Bill. These costs cover:

¹ A Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree.

- tuition fees for Scottish and current European Union² students, as well as a top up of tuition fees for the clinical years for students from the rest of the United Kingdom where there is a difference between the maximum that is able to be charged (currently capped at £9,250) and the clinical funding rate set by the SFC;
- Additional Costs of Teaching (ACT) funding which is administered by NES and is provided to NHS Scotland Health Boards to cover the additional costs of facilities and teaching provided by NHS clinical staff for dentistry and medical undergraduate students;
- the bursary for ScotGEM students who choose to bond to NHS Scotland by committing to a period of one year's service for each year that the bursary is taken (up to a maximum of four years); and,
- the Dental Student Support Grant for dental students who choose to bond to NHS Scotland by committing to a period of one year's service for each year the bursary is taken (up to a maximum of four years).

10. There is, at present, no intention to provide funding to the University to deliver a PMQ programme in its own right, or to deliver degrees in dentistry.

11. The Bill does not therefore create any additional or new costs over and above what would otherwise have been incurred for medical and dentistry degrees in Scotland without this legislative amendment, nor does it create any savings.

Costs on the Scottish administration

12. There will be no new material costs or savings to the Scottish Administration with the enactment of the provisions of this Bill.

Costs on local authorities

13. There will be no new material costs or savings to Scottish local authorities with the enactment of the provisions of this Bill.

² Tuition fees for European Union students will not be covered for those students commencing their course in or after the academic year 2021-22.

This document relates to the University of St. Andrews (Degrees in Medicine and Dentistry) Bill (SP Bill 82) as introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 29 September 2020

Costs on other bodies, individuals and businesses

14. There will be no new material costs or savings to other bodies, individuals or businesses with the enactment of the provisions in this Bill.

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