

DoF FOI 2023/0282 – Location of Graduate Entry Medical School at Magee Campus

Extracts of relevant material

**Please note that the draft Executive papers referred to at numbers 1 and 3 below, while circulated to the Executive, were never formally tabled, discussed and agreed. Both papers were superseded by the Executive paper agreed at number 5.*

*** The draft response prepared for the Minister to EXEC-0120-2020 (Number 4 below): DOH Draft Executive Paper - Version 1: Medical Education Expansion was not issued as the paper was superseded by the Executive paper agreed at number 5.*

1. 30 April 2020 – EXEC-0113-2020: DoF Draft Executive paper – Graduate Entry Medical School – Magee Campus*

Para 3. The Graduate Entry Medical School at Magee is a commitment under New Decade New Approach. The Medical School new build has been proposed within the context of the wider riverfront development proposals in the City Deal and is regarded as a flagship project in the economic and social regeneration of the area.

Para 9. Bullet point - Reaffirm that the Graduate Entry Medical School will be delivered from the Magee Campus.

Recommendations

I recommend that the Executive:

- Reaffirms its commitment that the Graduate Entry Medical School should be located at the Magee Campus.

2. 01 May 2020 - Justice Minister Letter of Response to EXEC-0113-2020: DoF Draft Executive paper – Graduate Entry Medical School – Magee Campus*

As previously advised I am fully supportive of the need for a well-resourced city deal for the North West and this includes my commitment to the establishment of the Graduate Entry Medical School at the Magee Campus.

3. 01 May 2020 – EXEC-0120-2020: DOH Draft Executive Paper - Version 1: Medical Education Expansion*

Para 18. The issue of provider and location are clearly wider strategic matters for the Executive to collectively decide, not only because they are cross-cutting (DoH, DfE and DoF all have a direct interest); but also because the debate about medical school provision in Northern Ireland incorporates discussion on wider socio-economic issues.

Para 19. As Minister of Health, my main interest is in increasing the supply of medical graduates as soon as possible. I therefore look to the Executive to make a decision in principle on the location and provider of future required medical education.

Para 21. To expedite the decision in principle, I am providing the following information on potential providers and locations for your consideration.

QUB

Para 22. QUB has previously contemplated providing a medical Graduate Entry Programme, and had actively developed proposals in 2007 which they subsequently did not progress.

Para 23. In late 2018 QUB submitted an Outline Business Case on proposals for expansion of their Medical School.

Para 24. DoH has at no stage, given any approval for Queen's University's Business Case. Similarly, QUB has not actively pursued this question with the Department.

Ulster University

Para 25. DoH has provided considerable assistance to UU as it has developed a business case to deliver on its medical education aspirations. This input has been primarily to ensure that the UU business case complies with the Government Accounting and Economic Appraisal methodology.

Para 28. UU's Outline Business Case envisages locating this School on its Magee Campus. Initially, this would be in refurbished buildings until a new-build facility is provided. This location may increase interest from students in the "target" areas signalled by the MSPR of the north and west of Northern Ireland. The proposed School would have an ethos that emphasises widening participation and a curriculum heavily focused on general practice, with a high concentration of clinical placements in rural settings in the west, and to a lesser extent, the north of Northern Ireland.

Para 31. Colleagues will be aware that the following priority for the restored Executive was included in *New Decade, New Approach*:

The Executive will expand university provision at Magee in line with commitments made by the previous Executive, including through the establishment of a Graduate Entry Medical School.

Para 32. This priority is not focused primarily upon delivery of DoH's assessed need for additional medical student places, but on UU's Graduate Entry Medical School proposal as an initial step in expanding university provision at Magee more generally.

There is specific reference under investment (Page 40, NDNA) for an overall increase in maximum student numbers to realise a 10,000 student campus at this location as part of a wider agenda of investment in the northwest region.

A collaborative approach between QUB and UU

Para 36. QUB has registered its willingness to pursue an integrated approach with UU on the expansion of undergraduate education if that was the Executive's preference.

Involvement of other third-level institutions

Para 41. To date all consideration of medical education in Northern Ireland has been limited to discussion of the involvement of QUB and/or UU. It is, of course, worth pointing out that it is an option for the Executive to invite expressions of interest from other third-level institutions.

Recommendations

That the Executive:

- (iv) considers and comments on the options in respect of locations and providers for any future expansion of medical education provision.

4. 07 May 2020 – EXEC-0120-2020: Submission to Finance Minister– advice and draft reply re DOH Draft Executive Paper - Version 1: Medical Education Expansion**

Submission

Para 3. The Health Minister has advised that his main interest is in increasing the supply of medical graduates as soon as possible. He has asked the Executive to make a decision in principle on the location and provider of future required medical education.

Para 4. Further to that decision the Health Minister has also advised that the Executive needs to consider where the additional medical student places should be based. The Minister provides a number of options for consideration but acknowledges the NDNA priority to establish a GEMS at Magee.

Draft reply for Minister

Para 4. I have also noted the options put forward in respect of locations and providers for any future expansion of medical education provision and the benefits and risks associated with each option. I am of the clear view that the New Decade New Decade New Approach priority to establish a graduate entry medical school at Magee must be

the key consideration for this Executive and that this option should now be pursued as a matter of urgency.

Para 5. I have noted the need for a final decision no later than 31 May 2020 and I wish to record my agreement that the location of the Graduate Entry School should be Magee.

5. 18 May 2020 - EXEC-0141-2020 TEO Final Executive Paper – Graduate Entry Medical School

Para 1. This paper seeks a reaffirmation of the Executive's commitment to establish a Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) at Magee Campus, which is contained in the *New Decade, New Approach* agreement.

Para 3. NDNA contained a commitment to develop a GEMS at the UU Magee Campus.

Recommendations

Para 17. It is recommended that the Executive:

- a. reaffirms its commitment to establish a Graduate Entry Medical School at Magee as set out in *New Decade, New Approach*;
- b. agrees that DoH should plan on the basis of a GEMS located at Magee because of the wider benefits which the Executive is expecting as a result of its investment in Derry/Londonderry through the North West City Deal and the Inclusive Futures Fund.

6. 18 May 2020 – Infrastructure Minister Letter of Response - EXEC-0141-2020 TEO Final Executive Paper – Graduate Entry Medical School

As you will be aware, I am committed to the delivery of the Magee Medical School, not only is this a commitment in *New Decade, New Approach* but it is a commitment given to the people of Derry and now an expectation for delivery

7. 21 May 2020 – EXEC-0141-2020 - Final Executive Minutes of meeting held on 18 May 2020

AGENDA ITEM 8

Other matters requiring Executive Agreement

E (20) 113 Graduate Entry Medical School

Para 23. The Executive:

- a. reaffirmed its commitment to establish a Graduate Entry Medical School at Magee as set out in *New Decade, New Approach*;
- b. agreed that the Department of Health should plan on the basis of a GEMS located at Magee because of the wider benefits which the Executive is expecting as a result of its investment in Derry / Londonderry through the North West City Deal and the Inclusive Futures Fund.

8. 07 July 2020 – Memo from David Sterling (HOCS) to FMdFM: Graduate Entry Medical School – Update on SIB Review and Draft Submission to the Executive

This note provides an update to the work undertaken by the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) to test the planning assumptions and dependencies in respect of the Executive's commitment to establish a Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) in the University of Ulster's (UU) Magee Campus by September 2021.

9. 09 July 2020 - EXEC-0113-2020: TEO Final Executive Paper- Graduate Entry Medical School – Update on Funding and Progress

1. Introduction

On 18 May the Executive reaffirmed its commitment to establish a Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) in the University of Ulster's (UU) Magee Campus by September 2021.

10.13 July 2020 – Letter from Minister of Finance to FMdFM: EXEC-0113-2020 Graduate Entry Medical School – Magee Campus

I am committed to the Graduate Entry Medical school at Magee and welcome the progress that has been made as set out in the Executive paper. It is incumbent on this Executive to do all that we can to ensure the delivery of this key project for the Northwest region.

11.21 July 2020 – SUB-1287-2020 Submission to Finance Minister – advice and draft reply on Graduate Entry Medical School – Magee: Letter to Ulster University - funding commitment.

Submission

Para 2. The Executive agreed the Graduate Entry Medical School paper on 10 July 2020.

Draft reply to Minister

Para 5. At that meeting it was agreed that the Permanent Secretary DfE would write to DoF advising that the recurrent Resource costs associated with the intake of students to the existing Magee buildings would proceed in line with the Executive's commitment to the Graduate entry policy and location on the Magee campus.

12. 21 July 2020 – Letter from Minister of Finance to Professor Paul Bartholomew, Ulster University: Graduate Entry Medical School Magee

I would also like to express my wider support for the Medical School at Magee and welcome the additional social and economic benefits that the investment in the Northwest will bring.