



Sarah Owen MP
Member of Parliament for Luton North

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

9th April 2020

Dear Matt

Debt of student nurses working to tackle the outbreak of covid-19

Over the last few weeks, we have seen the whole country united in our gratitude to those working night and day to keep our NHS going and look after our loved ones at this difficult time. If this coronavirus pandemic has proved anything, it is just how much we owe to those in the health service who are there for us when we need them most.

Health Education England has announced that in response to the crisis 5,553 students from 35 universities had signed up to a paid placement as of Friday, rearranging their studies to respond to your own call for them to join the NHS frontline early. This is a testament to the hard work and sense of duty that those who work in our NHS feel, especially during these unprecedented times.

We value the contribution of these nurses and, as MPs, will always stand with them. They are making a vital contribution in our national effort to beat the coronavirus. We ask you and your department to commit to doing all it can to support these nurses who will be facing the start of a new career like no one in our health service has before.

Therefore, we are calling on the government to support these new nurses by cancelling the student debt they have incurred throughout their studies. In future it would be a real sign of permanent change from the Government if we could see that every nurse left their training and education without any debt but right now, student nurses are risking their own health to help care for people during this crisis in really difficult circumstances, managing unprecedented demand and often without the correct protective equipment.

Cancelling this debt, as a first step, for this group of hardworking nurses would be an important signal to those starting their careers during this crisis that they are valued, not just by the public and their patients, but by their government as well.

We look forward to you taking action to help these new nurses.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Owen MP
Member of Parliament for Luton North



Janet Daby MP
Maria Eagle MP
Alex Cunningham MP
Mick Whitley MP
Paula Barker MP
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