



**Michelle Donelan MP**  
Minister of State for Universities

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9<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Lord Wharton,

This year, we have seen exceptional demand, and particular pressure in medicine and dentistry.

We announced last week that medical and dentistry schools across England will get additional funding to expand courses for the coming academic year to fulfil more offers for UK students who achieve the required grades. We would be grateful for your help with successfully managing the allocation of these additional places.

This letter provides further guidance from me to the Office for Students under section 2(3) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 and I confirm this guidance does not supersede steers in any previous guidance.

In response to this year's unprecedented situation the Government has adjusted the cap on medical and dentistry places so that more students than ever will have the opportunity to study on these courses in 2021, and in the long-term help boost our future NHS workforce.

In total, based on the latest estimates from the General Medical Council (GMC) and General Dental Council (GDC) incorporating feedback from Health Education England, there is sufficient capacity within medical and dental schools to safely admit an additional 368 medicine students and 88 dentistry students in the 2021/22 academic year. These places are in addition to the medicine and dentistry intake targets communicated to you in May 2021.

The additional places should only be allocated to home students, who have met the conditions of their firm or insurance offers for entry in 2021/22. The increases to the intake targets are for one year. The OfS should allocate increased places according to the capacity to expand that schools have reported, within advisory limits indicated by Health Education England (HEE) and the GMC or GDC (as applicable) on grounds of placement capacity, standards, and patient safety.

Schools should first admit their own students who have met the terms of their firm or insurance offers. Any remaining additional places they are allocated may be offered to students from other schools, who cannot be accommodated at the institutions for which have met the terms of their firm or insurance offers. I welcome the support and efforts of the medical and dental schools in managing this process.

The operation of the medical and dental intake targets in future years will continue to be managed closely by the OfS, so that medical and dental schools remain within their controlled limits.

Funding for these additional students will need to be included within the Strategic Priorities Grant (SPG) allocations for the 2021/22 academic year only and an additional £10m have been allocated to allow this.

I am grateful for your help and support as we continue to manage the range of challenges arising from the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle Donelan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

**Michelle Donelan MP**  
**Minister of State for Universities**