

Medicine: Education

Written Questions

Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health Committee

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to support the development and growth of smaller and non-London medical schools

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when he plans to announce the criteria and timetable for allocating additional undergraduate medical student places.

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when allocating the 1000 additional undergraduate medical student places, what steps he plans to take to ensure that medical schools outside London receive a fair allocation of those places.

Philip Dunne The Minister of State, Department of Health

The Government has announced a historic expansion of medical school places in England, with an increase of 1,500 medical school places in England. The first 500 places have already been allocated and will be available to students in September 2018.

The Government response to the recent consultation was published on 9 August 2017, confirming that 1,000 additional medical school places would be available to medical schools in England via a competitive bidding process to be managed jointly by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and Health Education England (HEE).

It also set out the priority areas bidding criteria would need to focus that include aligning the expansion to local National Health Service workforce need with an emphasis on priority geographical areas, including rural and coastal areas.

HEFCE and HEE are currently finalising the design of the bidding process and will publish details in the autumn.