

From: First Minister
Sent: 23 February 2018 12:37:39
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: University Applications

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: Public Engagement Unit
Sent: 23 February 2018 12:32
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Cc: First Minister
Subject: FW: University Applications

Hi,

Grateful if you could advise if this should go on MACCS.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent: 23 February 2018 11:59
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: University Applications

FAO John Swinney, Education Secretary, Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister.

Here is an email I sent to my local MP Fiona Hyslop, but I also want to raise the issues with you.

It may not make a difference for my daughter, but I believe these points have to be raised.

Dear Fiona,

Why is it that a straight A student with extra curricular experience (sports, volunteering, DoE , etc) who has followed the advice of Pathways in course choices and gained work experience is rejected outright for medicine from Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and St Andrews?

My opinion is : because of the conflicting policies of free tuition and widening access. Because of the free access, the universities set quotas for home/EU students.

Because of widening access, applicants who don't have the same grades or experience are at least invited to interview (we know of 2 examples within my daughter's peer group).

We are now working through options with our daughter and I am shocked to realise that those options are very limited. Again, I put this down to quotas and rationing of places to home/EU students. Options are available to those who can pay fees, but we don't even get that option, because we are Scottish!

She picked herself up from 4 rejections (resilient child) and looked at more options, because her 5 th UCAS choice of biology at Edinburgh still has not given her a decision. Following a very positive trip to Dundee to look at the Biological sciences programme, she was then told that she could not apply this year, because they have no spaces (for Home/EU). I can send you the email exchanges if you would wish to read them . She had a similar experience with Glasgow, but that was at least only an email exchange and not as devastating.

We are now looking at the UCAS extra, but again, options are very limited, due to the reasons given above and my daughter is facing the very tough choice of whether to go to uni on a course that is not her first choice, or take a gap year and try again next year.

She has said that she will not apply for medicine again, although this has been what she had worked towards throughout high school. Her teachers are as amazed as we are (head teacher, subject teachers, guidance teacher who helped with personal statement and thought it was strong) that such a bright, capable student was rejected outright. In a country crying out for doctors, this seems such a wasted opportunity for everyone. I know a new degree is being established in Dundee and St Andrews for post grad entry to medicine, because of the need for doctors.

I think you, as MSPs need to consider the effects your policies have in fighting against each other. While I am in favour of free tuition, I do not think that university is for everyone. In society we need trades people, care staff, refuse collectors, as well as accountants, lawyers, doctors. The answer for me is not for more people to go to university, but for society to value the individual, the job they do and their contribution to the whole.

[REDACTED]

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From: First Minister
Sent: 08 August 2017 11:04:42
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re-entry to Glasgow University Medicine

MACCS for OR

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Public Engagement Unit
Sent: 08 August 2017 10:55
To: First Minister
Subject: FW: Re-entry to Glasgow University Medicine

FM Correspondence for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 August 2017 10:43
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: Re-entry to Glasgow University Medicine

Hi Ms Sturgeon

I am drawing to your attention my daughters dilemma. [REDACTED] has achieved: 7 As and 1B, at National 5- 5As at Higher- and 1A 1B and 1 C at Advanced Higher (so far as she may ask for remarks).

However this is not good enough to apply to Glasgow University. [REDACTED] wants to train in Scotland (preferably Glasgow) and practice in Scotland.

I find it disgraceful that my daughter has achieved great results and has been made to feel that she is not good enough.

Your thoughts on this would be gratefully appreciated.

From a disappointed and confused Scottish Mother

Regards [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 August 2017 08:39:44
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: University Education in Scotland

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP [mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 14 August 2017 08:24
To: First Minister
Subject: Fwd: University Education in Scotland

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Unit 3
Govanhill Workspace
69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk>

All other enquiries to nicola.sturgeon@snp.org<mailto:nicola.sturgeon@snp.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 14 August 2017 at 08:17:09 BST
To: firstminister@gov.scot<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc:
Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

>

Subject: University Education in Scotland

I have supported SNP for many years and have agreed with your policies on the whole, however, over the last year an issue has been brought to my attention. My daughter is 18 she has just left school with 6A's in highers and 2 A advanced highers in maths and chemistry. She worked incredibly hard for these results without the help of tutors or supported study. My daughter applied to study medicine in Scotland but unfortunately was unsuccessful. She had all the relevant work experience and voluntary work but wasn't considered. She decided to take a gap year to gain more experience and is currently working as a care assistant in a care home. This was never her intention as she wishes to study. She then decided to look into studying maths and finance, as she has a particularly good aptitude for maths. She contacted Glasgow university and Strathclyde university and was told that there are no places available for Scottish students through clearing, however, if she was from England, Wales or Northern Ireland there would be a place available. How can this be a fair society? My husband and I have worked hard to enable us to bring our children up in a good area, going to a good school, which now seems to be a disadvantage! Young people who aren't meeting the grades for places at university are being given places while someone with excellent grades, gained by her own hard work is working in a care home as she can't get a place to study. I look forward to hearing your comments on this as I genuinely worry that our academic young people will be moving on from Scotland. Free university education is only a benefit to Scotland if we are educating our own young people to become effective contributors to our society.

Regards

[Redacted signature block]

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④
From: First Minister
Sent: 08 August 2017 14:19:13
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Message from Scottish Parliament website

MACCS for OR

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[cid:image001.png@01D31051.4EBA1650]<https://firstminister.gov.scot/>

From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP [mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 08 August 2017 14:17
To: First Minister
Subject: Fwd: Message from Scottish Parliament website

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Govanhill Workspace
Unit 3, 69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk>

All other enquiries to nicola.sturgeon@snp.org<mailto:nicola.sturgeon@snp.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: <noreply@parliament.scot<mailto:noreply@parliament.scot>>
Date: 8 August 2017 at 12:00:03 BST
To:
<Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>
Subject: Message from Scottish Parliament website
name:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
message:

Dear Nicola

I am writing to you regarding the situation with Scottish University students applying for undergraduate programmes. The Clearing process for programmes starting in 2017 is now open. As a mum of three children I am very familiar with this process and very clearly aware of how our Scottish students are discriminated against. A course that my son applied for but just missed out on his conditions is in clearing for paying students but not Scottish students. Paying students who do not meet the conditions gain entry via clearing as I know this was the case for at least two Irish students through personal experience in previous years. I have enclosed the web address <https://www.hw.ac.uk/study/clearing/guide-to-clearing.htm>

As you can see there are spaces but only for paying students and not our Scottish students. As a result my son has been given an offer for a course which he doesn't want to do but feels he has no choice. I am appalled that our students are being discriminated because they are Scottish!! Had my son been born in Ireland or overseas he would be able to begin the course of his choice in September with the qualifications he has. As a very proud Scot who is passionate about education for all (I am a primary teacher) and young people reaching their full potential, I am writing to you to make you aware of this situation and appealing to you to address it as I feel this cannot go on. As a 54 year hard working woman and a very proud mum of two girls (24 & 21) and an 18 year old son I feel I would be doing them and all young people a disservice if I did not write to you to address this issue. I am more than happy to meet with you to discuss this situation and i look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 September 2017 11:34:10
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject:

Attachments: FW My 18 year old's opportunities.txt

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: First Minister
Sent: 05 September 2017 17:21
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: My 18 year old's opportunities

Categories: [REDACTED] Blue Category

MACCS for OR

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2017 17:21
To: First Minister
Subject: Re: My 18 year old's opportunities

Third email about opportunities in Scotland for my 18 year old WITH 5 HIGHERS.

Not accepted by glasgow, Edinburgh or glasgow Caledonia . He went into Extra - refused from at least 10 maybe more choices - the main reason being there were no places left .

When clearing happened he tried Scottish Unis - no clearing opportunities for economics or law in glasgow , Edinburgh, Aberdeen , Dundee , Stirling . None ! However there were opportunities in clearing for English and other students.

** he has now applied to English Unis as to waste another year would be ridiculous ! He had 2 offers from English Unis . Now going to [REDACTED] to do economics.

I am actually just quite annoyed! I pay taxes here and those taxes are helping to pay for EU students to take places. My son now having to pay for his education in England .

I will probably go out of my way not to vote SNP again . Even though I have done so since my teens in the 70s.

This is not acceptable.

Also is he entitled to the 1800 per year he should be given towards tuition ???? I've been told no.

Another outrage .

I am a single parent (teacher) let down on all fronts-
-earning over 34000 (no bursary) even though I have NO spare money for my son .
- no pay increase in years
- no Scottish vacancies at uni.
- no award to at least help him !

The system is not working for my family.
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Jul 2017, at 23:07 [REDACTED]
hello

This is my second message on the subject of widening access or simply giving Scottish students a chance.

My son emailed Edinburgh university explaining that he would like to take A levels to gain entry to a course.

He sat highers (he did not take advanced highers and so surely he has the right to try to improve his chances .

This is his reply. So at 18 with 5 highers AABBC and 9 modules of HNC level engineering (he is on the shelf)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

I have checked your application and I refer you to the feedback sent to you [REDACTED] on 6th April 2017, and in particular the following paragraph:

Unfortunately there is very little you can do at this stage to boost your qualifications in order to have a better chance of receiving an offer for the LLB programme competition for places is consistently extremely high and we would always prioritise offers to applicants who had met the academic level required in the first attempt of Highers. If you are really keen to study Law specifically at Edinburgh, the only advice I could give you at this stage is that you take 3 years out of education and then apply to return to university through an approved access route as an adult returner . Again, there would be no guarantee that an offer for a place on the LLB Law programme would be made and you should think seriously about this before deciding on this route.

[REDACTED] and is in the best position to advise you on your chances of a successful application. Therefore, the only option available to you at this stage is to follow the above advice. Alternatively, there are other very good Law Schools at other Edinburgh Higher Education Institutions that may be able to consider an application from you, and I would suggest contacting them.

I am sorry to have to give you such disappointing news.

With best wishes,
[REDACTED]

The University of Edinburgh

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].png>

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From [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 June 2017 16:51
To: RECEPTION Law <law@ed.ac.uk>
Subject: Entry requirements

Dear sir/madam

I previously applied for entry but was unsuccessful.

I intend studying 3 a levels through NEC or open college.

Could you please tell me if this would provide me with a conditional offer? If these qualifications would be considered?

Thank you in advance.

[REDACTED]

I have not studied advanced highers or A levels

Thank you

[REDACTED]

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Sent from my iPhone

On 19 Jun 2017, at 23:44, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Nicola

I am a primary teacher. Also a single parent. My son has never qualified for any additional support in any way . This is what I expected and I have always worked to provide for him. This has been difficult . I returned to work when he was 5 months old .

When he left school he thought he wanted to do engineering and got a course (with an amended offer) even though he had 5 highers - ABBCC
He re-sat maths higher and got an A .

So has AAB C

He also studied modules for engineering systems while at school (one module short of

an HNC)

Unfortunately he changed his mind about the course he wanted to study and left in Dec hoping he wouldn't have used a years funding.

He re-applied through UCAS this year for law or law and economics and has no offers.
He applied to Glasgow , Edinburgh and Glasgow Caledonia.

He does not have sufficient qualifications as there is so much competition for entry. He also will not receive an amended offer based on school or area (as he had a false start and is no longer at school) but he is still only 18.

He has not been entitled to any education support and I can assure you on my salary which has not increased I have struggled. If anything that is an understatement .

He now thinks he will try to study A levels as this may help him to get a course and this will cost between 300 and 500 (each) through distance learning (nec or open college) . We are still not sure that these will be accepted as many universities have not replied to his emails.


I don't think there are enough courses and think that as he had a false start he should still have the opportunities that others do (ie extending access) .

He is clever and kind and had to deal with a difficult situation in his personal life. He does deserve a 'break'

I just feel that there are barriers to everything for him and do feel let down that he will have to continue studying just to gain entry to a course.

He must have quite a high number of UCAS points , however as in a different area this will not count. Surely our young people need a chance . Where is our future if these kids don't get that chance . He could easily be saying oh well I won't go to uni. But still wants to try.

How we will pay for these A levels also is a barrier!


Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 September 2017 08:42:01
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Applying to Scottish Universities.

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 September 2017 23:29
To: First Minister
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Applying to Scottish Universities.

----- Original Message -----

On Tuesday, 5 Sep, 2017 at 19:14, [REDACTED] wrote:

I am writing with regards to a Scottish place at University. I am a young Scottish student who has recently finished school. Regarding a phone call I made to UWS last week, I was told that "places were full for Scottish students and are only available for foreign candidates". I strongly believe that the course should be available for anyone who has an interest in the subject. Discrimination is the only word that can sum this up. If places are not filled by "foreign students" what happens to those spaces... the course will only run half full. Currently I don't have another option as there is nothing available to me at clearing and I am considering applying for full time jobs. At this current time, I have 6 National 5's, 6 Higher's and 1 Advanced Higher Qualification. I hope that from these qualifications it may see me into a place at a Scottish University.

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]

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From: First Minister
Sent: 09 August 2017 08:38:06
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Message from Scottish Parliament website

MACCS for OR

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[cid:image001.png@01D310EA.D05772E0]<<https://firstminister.gov.scot/>>

From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP [mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 08 August 2017 19:43
To: First Minister
Subject: Fwd: Message from Scottish Parliament website

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Unit 3
Govanhill Workspace
69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk>>

All other enquiries to nicola.sturgeon@snp.org<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon@snp.org>>

Begin forwarded message:

From: <noreply@parliament.scot<<mailto:noreply@parliament.scot>>>
Date: 8 August 2017 at 19:28:31 BST
To:
<Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>>
Subject: Message from Scottish Parliament website
name:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

message:

I used to live in [Redacted] and have voted SNP my whole voting life. Specifically for Nicola Sturgeon. I was a YES vote. I am absolutely disgusted that my daughter has been told today that she would not be considered for a place at Glasgow University because she was Scottish. I find that totally unacceptable and I am very disappointed.

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 August 2017 10:30:54
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: University Clearing.

For MACCS please.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of
Swinney J (John), MSP
Sent: 21 August 2017 10:27
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: University Clearing.

Hello,
Received to John's inbox. With thanks.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 August 2017 16:19
To: Swinney J (John), MSP
<John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>>
Subject: University Clearing.

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Swinney,
My son (18) has recently left high school. Like most 17/18 year olds he's been a bit uncertain about his direction in life and sensibly, wanted to give himself some time before making commitments regarding his future.

He recently received his examination results, achieving a creditable 5 higher grade passes at A, including Mathematics and Physics.
On Tuesday 15th of August he wanted to discuss his options with us, indicating that he was fairly certain that he was going to study in the area of Sound Engineering.

The exercise of looking through UCAS clearing and Scottish University websites has left us all extremely disheartened.

Simple question.

Can you tell me why there are opportunities for International Students and those from the rest of the UK, in almost every discipline, but the only options open to Scottish students are in secondary education or Nursing?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: First Minister
Sent: 09 August 2017 08:44:18
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: education

MACCS for OR

Thanks

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 August 2017 19:06
To: First Minister
Subject: education

hello Ms Sturgeon

two of my daughters got exam results today.

My middle daughter, [REDACTED] is keen to embark on secondary teaching, and applied to study English and History.

She was unsuccessful - she obtained one A, three Bs and a D (Maths never her strong point!).

The only courses available to her in these subjects were ones those 'ring fenced' for those in local authority care or those from deprived postcode areas - that was fine, in fact made me quite proud to be Scottish.

She is determined, so she has not pursued other courses such a events management through clearing, and will embark on a college course, working up to an HND and then hopefully securing a place to study these subjects, thereafter embark on teacher training.

Her friend obtained 5 As but was rejected to study medicine. She now has a place to study medicine in the Netherlands, so off she will go ...

Whilst pondering over clearing, I pretended I was English and suddenly there was an array of opportunities before me, including [REDACTED] chosen subjects of English and History, but when contacting universities we were told this wasn't available to Scottish students.

Are you aware of this?

I am an SNP supporter, but I have to wonder the logic where we are not absolutely

embracing home grown interest and talent, with the likelihood they will stay and bridge the enormous recruitment gap in health and education. I work in the NHS - why are we not supporting these bright students instead of boasting our achievements of free education ... at the cost of ... ??

We have a good number of school leavers who are willing to embark in future studies to train in medicine, nursing and teaching. Why are we continuing to prioritise those outwith Scotland to this training, with the knowledge that they will likely leave as soon as practicable to pursue careers in places closer to their hearts.

I am an SNP supporter - but I am dismayed at the state of our education, health and social care. You have the power to change this - surely we must focus on nurturing home grown talent who are most likely to stay, than accepting huge numbers of 'paying students' from out-with Scotland, simply to boast of our free education.

My sister is a senior member of the teaching profession too, and feels the same sense of loss - please, understand our real concerns about the future of our education system - there is no loss of face to open up places to those who may be able to afford some tuition fees if they do not meet the criteria, in line with applicants out-with Scotland, perhaps with the advantage of our students getting results earlier and thus supporting home grown talent. It feels like a no brainer, what am I missing?

It's all too late for [REDACTED] but if you truly want to commit to Scotland's education, then please support our students to pursue courses which will address our shortfall in health, social care, education and enterprise. They are out there, but we seem to be doing everything in our power to dissuade their advancement.

Thanks for listening!

Cheers

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: First Minister
Sent: 08 August 2018 08:56:07
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Message from Scottish Parliament website

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP [mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 07 August 2018 20:47
To: First Minister
Subject: Fwd: Message from Scottish Parliament website

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Unit 3
Govanhill Workspace
69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

From: noreply@parliament.scot<<mailto:noreply@parliament.scot>>
<noreply@parliament.scot<<mailto:noreply@parliament.scot>>>
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 11:59:35 AM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Subject: Message from Scottish Parliament website

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

message:

I have a daughter who has just completed S6 and wants to go on to study Fine Art at University. She has [REDACTED] therefore she applied to Edinburgh and GSoA and not further a field. She meets the entry requirements and submitted very good folios (we are aware of how subjective Art can be). Various Art teachers, illustrators and Artists have acknowledged her talent. After a rejection from both but an offer in Psychology from Edinburgh, which was a reluctant option choice on her part. She finds herself having to go to college for a year and use her SAAS to fund this. The point is that there are spaces on the degrees BUT only if you are an international or UK(other) student. I understand the financial implications but having looked at all of the university clearing places this morning there is certainly a story to be told. Why are the allocations to our own students so few especially within the Arts sector? Surely we should be doing more to nurture homegrown talent? As a secondary teacher this situation is happening more and more to our students where they need to seek alternate routes or settle for 3rd or 4th choices.

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From: First Minister
Sent: 08 August 2018 08:52:51
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: University placement

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP [mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 07 August 2018 20:45
To: First Minister
Subject: Fwd: University placement

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Unit 3
Govanhill Workspace
69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 4:19:38 PM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Subject: University placement

Dear First Minister,

I am writing with the hope that you can help with my son [REDACTED] request to apply for a clearing placement at Strathclyde University?
I have copied you into the below correspondence that I have had with the university

today and previously. [redacted] has done exceptional in his results gaining AAAC and is now wishing to change his unconditional offer at Caledonian University to any Mechanical Engineering course at Strathclyde through clearing or adjustment. I have contacted the University today and have been told that no places are available even although they seem to be when you sign into the UCAS website as an English student. I also contacted Herriot Watt university to be told that he could not be considered due to his postcode! I've honestly never heard of such a thing. Surely any university cannot discriminate against post codes at all. We are still a G [redacted] post code, the same as his school. He is also in the same classes with the same pupils and teachers and the school is in an SIP area(social inclusion partnership) We could have sent him over the border but stuck by GCC, what good did it do us? I have been advised that Strathclyde has adopted these same methods.

Can you please look into this for me and advise if there's anything that you can do to help?

Thanks.

[redacted]
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]

Date: 7 August 2018 at 11:10:52 BST

To: [redacted]

Subject: R [redacted]
[redacted]

Thank you for your email but unfortunately we do not have any places available in any of the Mechanical Engineering undergraduate courses for entry in September. The Engineering Academy places for Mechanical Engineering have also been filled.

Kind regards -

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]

Sent: 07 August 2018 09:46

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am writing on behalf of my son [REDACTED] who has done very well with his exam results and is looking for any Mechanical Engineering related courses or the Engineering Academy under clearing. I have already contacted you before, see below.

[REDACTED] has accepted an offer from Caledonia University but would like to study at Strathclyde.

Are you able to help?

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 Apr 2018, at 10:11, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I have copied [REDACTED] into this response.

As I explained on the phone we are unable to consider transferring [REDACTED]'s application to Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering as unfortunately he has not met our minimum entry requirements after S5 - Highers at AAAAB (Maths & Physics at AA).

As I also mentioned, the Department is fortunate to receive applications from a huge number of students, far more than we can accept, and hence we have to find equitable means of selecting students to whom we are able to offer a place. Our applicants are a mixture of those with confirmed grades and those with predicted grades. The numbers are currently such that we can fill our capped Home/EU places with students that meet or exceed our requirements and who have confirmed grades. Under the circumstances, our current policy is not to make any conditional offers to our main pool of applicants.

We have vast experience of managing our applications and as a result can be confident that our places will be filled even if some applicants fail to meet any conditions set.

I appreciate [REDACTED] may be disappointed with our decision but we are unable to reverse this.

I trust this response will bring closure to this issue.

Kind regards -

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: 18 April 2018 21:42

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I spoke to you yesterday morning regarding my son [REDACTED] application and I would like to appeal your recent decision not to transfer [REDACTED] place from Civil Engineering to the Mechanical Engineering course?

[REDACTED] has received a conditional offer for Civil Engineering at Strathclyde and after much soul searching has decided he would rather study some form of Mechanical Engineering as this would be better suited to his skill set and interests. He has excelled in his prelims gaining amongst others a B in advanced Higher Physics and according to his school looks set to carry this on to his exams, despite a turbulent year in his personal life and a school with poor results in a deprived area. [REDACTED] has also taken part in the UCAS top up programme.

[REDACTED] is also aware that others within his school have received a conditional offer despite not having attained as many UCAS points as [REDACTED] and they have made it known that they have not studied in order to achieve the conditions set. What will happen to his peers places if they fail to meet your conditions?

I have spoken with UCAS and they advised that another option available is to be released and apply under clearance, is this an option?

Can you also confirm that had [REDACTED] applied initially for the Mechanical Engineering course would he have received an offer whether it was unconditional or conditional?

Thanks very much for your time.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*

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(12)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2018 09:53:46
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: University Placement Availability for some Scottish Students

For MACCS please

[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 August 2018 13:39
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: University Placement Availability for some Scottish Students

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: University Placement Availability for some Scottish Students

Dear Mr Swinney

I am writing to you as a concerned parent and about the availability of places available at Scottish Universities for native students who have to go through clearing.

We live in [REDACTED] but our postcode is not in a disadvantaged area, therefore our son cannot get a place through clearing despite having achieved good grades from his recent exam results.

He has achieved 3A, 3B and 1C at higher and a B in advanced higher history. We are hardworking parents, I'm [REDACTED] in the NHS, and have worked hard to provide for my family and now feel our son is being disadvantaged for our hard work ethics. My parents, my husbands and sons all live in the same house to enable us to live in a better area. My son has only this year been diagnosed [REDACTED] and is highly intelligent but didn't achieve the required results last year due to exam anxiety and the schools failure to provide agreed exam accommodations. He is bitterly disappointed after contacting universities yesterday only to be told by Strathclyde and Stirling University 'We would have offered you a place but can't accept any more Scottish students.'

As a lifelong SNP supporter I feel extremely let down.

Is this not discrimination towards some Scottish Students?

Yours sincerely



*

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13

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2018 10:02:37
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Free tuition for Scottish Students

For MACCS please

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 August 2018 14:37
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: Free tuition for Scottish Students

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 August 2018 14:14
To: Swinney J (John), MSP
<John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>>>
Subject: RE: Free tuition for Scottish Students

Dear John, I thought I'd also attach the UCAS site and statement of eligibility to let you see the problem for young scot's trying to further their education in Scotland. Under the current limited access Colleges and Universities need to give courses to fee paying students from other countries in the UK.

Radiotherapy and Oncology Glasgow Caledonian University
[Glasgow Caledonian University]
Undergraduate

2018 - 2019<<https://digital.ucas.com/courses/details?coursePrimaryId=3823a602-116f-16bf-dc2c-23ed5a573d2b&academicYearId=2018>> 2019 -
2020<<https://digital.ucas.com/courses/details?coursePrimaryId=3823a602-116f-16bf-dc2c-23ed5a573d2b&academicYearId=2019>>

Therapeutic radiographers are highly skilled caring professionals who have an essential role in the treatment of patients with cancer.

GCU is the largest provider of therapeutic radiography education in Scotland. The teaching team work closely with practice colleagues in the NHS and with their professional body to ensure the programme is relevant and up-to-date.

Practice placements take place at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in Glasgow, the largest cancer centre in Scotland and one of the larger centres in the UK, Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.

Completion of an honours degree in Radiotherapy and Oncology leads to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council, and membership of the Society of Radiographers.

* Qualification

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)

* Study mode

Full-time

* Location

Main Site

* Start date

17 September 2018

* Duration

4 years

Course details

Assessment method

In our programme we use a wide range of both summative and formative assessment methods. This includes written and online exams, essays, case studies, critical review and presentations. We also use self and peer assessment in addition to tutor marked assessments.

In clinical practice, students have professional performance assessments and staged assessments in addition to reflective work and practice-based exams. Students self-assess formatively and are summatively assessed by practice educators

[cid:image002.png@01D42E58.C286C940]

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

To: 'John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot'

Subject: Free tuition for Scottish Students

Dear John, my youngest daughter [REDACTED] is seeking to enter Glasgow University to undertake a course in Radiology and Oncology. Unfortunately there are no clearing spaces available for Scottish Students but there are for students from the rest of the UK despite my daughter having all of the necessary qualifications.

This is the second time this has happened to my family. My first daughter [REDACTED] managed to win a place at Robert Gordon in Aberdeen and she is now a successful Pharmacist. My second daughter [REDACTED] unfortunately fell foul of the 'free tuition for all Scottish Students' and had to go to University in Newcastle where she is about to enter her final year of Dentistry.

The problem with offering free tuition to Scottish Students is that our Universities need to make up the short-fall in income and therefore limit spaces for Scottish students.

For this to happen a second time does not feel right to me and the odds for this happening is showing what an unfair system we have here in Scotland. Scottish students should not have to go to England to undertake courses that are available in Scotland. As a Scottish tax-payer having voted for the SNP I now feel badly done by as two of my three daughters have to go England to gain their degrees and I have to pay a lot more in fee's, travel as they are further away and of course accommodation. I know of other parents who are now also realising that the promise of free tuition by

the SNP is not what we were led to believe.

My daughters have all decided on noble careers which are badly need in the Scottish Health Service but the way allocations is being handled is not encouraging them to working here in Scotland as they don't feel valued.

I'd like to hear your views on this matter.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

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(14)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2018 23:26:30
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: University Places

I would like to know why my daughter is finding it really difficult to be accepted into universities in Scotland when she has worked extremely hard to achieve the entry requirements and there are only places available for English , Wales , Northern Ireland and International applicants?

I am a single parent , my children are not from a privileged background and feel this is discriminating against home students looking to further their education in their own country.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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15

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 April 2017 13:26:03
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Reply from the Scottish Government.

Hi,

For MACCS please.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 March 2017 11:32
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: RE: Reply from the Scottish Government.

Dear [REDACTED]

John Swinney has asked me to thank you for your email to his MSP account. It has been passed to his ministerial office for attention. If you have any queries, please contact the address that is copied in above.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 March 2017 16:22
To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Reply from the Scottish Government.

Hello,

Would appreciate if you could review the questions raised and reply specifically to the points raised opposed to giving generic feedback

Below is a letter I wrote to the SNP regarding free education and my son having to go to England at 18 years old to study medicine, at the same time Scotland is paying for European children to study here with a number leaving the country after successfully passing their exams. Nicola now confirms free education for European students (15000) when there might not even be a European Union, the reply was as expected and didn't answer the questions.

- 1 why do Europeans get free places
- 2 why can Wales subsidise their students studying in England
- 3 why can the Scottish schools not support children with dyslexia

Hopefully you can answer these questions on my behalf as if this was being marked in an English exam it would be a fail as the individual who answered on John Swinney's behalf has totally misinterpreted the question but then again maybe this is due to the poor education system. The reply is attached

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From [REDACTED]
Date: 3 March 2017 at 14:48:05 GMT
To: "John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot" <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: education

Hello

I wrote to the SNP over a year ago regarding my son having to move to England due to being unable to get a place in medical school in Scotland. My letter was passed to you from [REDACTED] due to your position and role within the party. As it stands I am still awaiting a response. You promote free education for Scotland including European students however I am paying ?6000 rent per year in addition to living costs and flights home and my son will leave university with significant debts due to course fees. Why do Scottish children not get priority on placements and why can if Welsh government support their kids subsidizing their course fees in England the Scottish government can't. My son had to leave home at 18 to live in Exeter with no family

infrastructure to support him however though his efforts he is now in 4th year and been selected for an additional years study although was tested for dyspraxia in his first year this was missed for his entire education in Scotland.

in addition I recently attended another of my sons parents evening, he was diagnosed in primary 6 as being dyslexic however from a schools point of view this wasn't identified or addressed, as a parent I had to pursue this, and when previously discussed at parents evening from primary 5 was told spelling didn't matter!, the result was he was approaching high school 3 years behind his peers, I had to pay ?120 per month for after school tuition to get him back on track, and he is now on a par with his class.

His 2nd year review, again I highlighted spelling and although this isn't marked in his coursework it was clearly evident when I reviewed his jotters. I was told that spelling isn't that important and didn't feature in the marking and wouldn't impact his exam results. In addition when I asked the same question to the English teacher was again told it wasn't that important and could bring the mark down by 1-2% both teachers said they didn't have the resource to address and as my son wasn't the worst he wouldn't get any additional attention.

Your part recently decided not to pass on the benefit of a tax reduction to higher earners, however when you consider the fact I have to pay additional costs to educate my children drive 100 miles a day and spend 2.5hrs a day commuting to earn a wage to finance this then I wonder if indeed the quest for independence and immortality detracts your government from what's really important to the general public.

The education system is appalling and we appear to want to concentrate as a country wallowing in what's wrong and blaming everyone else opposed to celebrating, promoting success and encouraging people to work hard and realize the benefits of their efforts.

regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 27 March 2017 at 09:38:34 BST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reply from the Scottish Government.

Thank you for your correspondence. Please see the attached reply which includes a reference number for future use.

*

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Dh?fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chl?radh neo air a sgr?dadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-?ifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh?fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a? phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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16

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 March 2017 11:09:03
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: education

Hi,

For MACCs please.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney MSP | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [REDACTED] | E: DFMCSE@gov.scot

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]] On Behalf Of Swinney J (John), MSP
Sent: 03 March 2017 14:54
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: education

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 March 2017 14:48
To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: education

Hello

I wrote to the SNP over a year ago regarding my son having to move to England due to being unable to get a place in medical school in Scotland. My letter was passed to you from [REDACTED] due to your position and role within the party. As it stand I am still awaiting a response. You promote free education for Scotland including European students however I am paying ?6000 rent per year in addition to living costs and flights home and my son will leave university with significant debts due to course fees. Why do Scottish children not get priority on placements and why can if welsh government support their kids subsidizing their course fees in England the Scottish government cant. My son had to leave home at 18 to live in Exeter with no family infrastructure to support him however though his efforts he is now in 4th year and been selected for an additional years study although was tested for dyspraxia in his first year this was missed for his entire education in Scotland.

in addition I recently attended another of my sons parents evening, he was diagnosed in primary 6 as being dyslexic however from a schools point of view this wasn't

identified or addressed, as a parent I had to pursue this, and when previously discussed at parents evening from primary 5 was told spelling didn't matter!, the result was he was approaching high school 3 years behind his peers, I had to pay ?120 per month for after school tuition to get him back on track, and he is now on a par with his class.

His 2nd year review, again I highlighted spelling and although this isn't marked in his coursework it was clearly evident when I reviewed his jotters, I was told that spelling isn't that important and didn't feature in the marking and wouldn't impact his exam results. In addition when I asked the same question to the English teacher was again told it wasn't that important and could bring the mark down by 1-2% both teachers said they didn't have the resource to address and as my son wasn't the worst he wouldn't get any additional attention.

Your part recently decided not to pass on the benefit of a tax reduction to higher earners, however when you consider the fact I have to pay additional costs to educate my children drive 100 miles a day and spend 2.5hrs a day commuting to earn a wage to finance this then I wonder if indeed the quest for independence and immortality detracts your government from what's really important to the general public.

The education system is appalling and we appear to want to concentrate as a country wallowing in what's wrong and blaming everyone else opposed to celebrating, promoting success and encouraging people to work hard and realize the benefits of their efforts.

regards

[REDACTED]

*

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17

From: First Minister
Sent: 10 April 2018 14:54:22
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: The consequences of SNP tuition fee policy

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

First Minister's preferences can be found at:
<http://intranet/InExec/AboutUs/Ministers/MinisterialPrivateOffices/OfficeOfTheFM>

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 April 2018 14:52
To: First Minister
Subject: Fwd: The consequences of SNP tuition fee policy

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 10 April 2018 at 14:28:16 BST
To: Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
>
Cc: John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: The consequences of SNP tuition fee policy

Dear Ms Sturgeon,

Just over 2 weeks ago my son, a credit to us and his nation, had his dream shattered when, despite 6 A's at Higher, on track for 3 A's at Advanced Higher and various other achievements including a Glasgow University Philosophy course and D of E Gold, he was rejected for the course he has been driving towards for years : International Relations at St Andrews University.

These achievements are the product of a huge amount of hard work and dedication. He has done all that was asked of him and more and much of the reason for his rejection is a direct consequence of your funding system and cap which is making it harder and harder for Scots to achieve a place at a Scottish University especially one

of the 'ancient' ones.

These are qualifications that got him an interview for Balliol, Oxford and conditionals for Warwick and Durham but not St Andrews. In the last figures I could find (2016 - source Times Higher Education Journal using Audit Scotland statistics) 19% of our young Scots do not receive any of their 5 offers. We personally know of two young people in that position with 5 A's and it's heart breaking. What message are we giving these students ?

Every other nation has a better chance of going to a Scottish University than Scots do. In 2016 nearly 70% of non EU students and 58% of English, Welsh & Irish were made an offer from our 4 oldest universities whereas only 48% of Scots received an offer. This is putting the youth of our nation at a serious disadvantage. It is not FAIR.

If you add meeting diversity and equality targets to this cap (23% increase in demand for places for Scots but only 7% increase in places since 2010) the selection process is disadvantaging high-achieving, middle class Scots. I fully support wider access - my career has mostly been spent as a member of the SMT in one of the most deprived high schools in the west of Scotland fighting to raise attainment - but this is NOT widening access it is transferring it. It is not lost on us that of 6 students from my son's school who applied for Economics/International Relations the 4 who were successful with less academic qualifications all ticked their diversity box for them.

My son will survive, pick himself up and move forward but he will sadly move to England. We will find the funds to support him as best we can and give the money to an English not Scottish University. Had we been allowed to pay St Andrews his chances of getting in would have been much increased. Is this a policy Scotland can afford ?

He is not the only one in this position- a small but significant proportion of some of our brightest and best - will leave for England. Many of them will not return and take their talents and skills elsewhere. I do not believe that is what you envisioned when you created this policy but that is the result.

Finally what is the lesson my son learns ? That life is not fair? That he has been seriously disadvantaged by being too middle class and most importantly too Scottish by the policies of his government? What a National shame.

Yours sincerely



Sent from my iPad

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2017 14:20:57
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Equitrac Scan-to-Me

Attachments: [REDACTED]_05-09-2017_14-19-17.pdf

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of First Minister
Sent: 05 September 2017 12:17
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Request to make an appointment.
Attachments: Fwd: Message from Scottish Parliament website

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: [REDACTED] Blue Category

PEU

Grateful if you could put this on MACCS, as a diary case for signature by FM Private Office Diary Team Manager,
[REDACTED]

Cheers
[REDACTED]



Office of the First Minister of Scotland
FirstMinister.gov.scot
Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba



[REDACTED] First Minister's Diary Team | 6th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh |
EH1 3DG | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Please note, I work a part time flexible working pattern over Tuesday-Friday. My mailbox is not monitored on a Monday.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 September 2017 13:16
To: First Minister
Subject: Request to make an appointment.


Dear Mrs Sturgeon,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing to you with regards to my daughter. Having spoken to one of your colleagues in the office, I have been advised to email you personally to discuss a topic I very strongly believe in, regarding education. Unfortunately, with the rejection of my daughter by Scottish universities, I have been extremely disappointed with how applications are assessed. Not only that but witnessing my daughter suffer a knock-back mentally alongside watching her confidence reel has only urged me to write to you in the hope of garnering your audience and perhaps asking for change. If not change then at least a platform to voice my concerns to somebody who is maybe willing to listen.

With that said, explaining anymore over email would not do the matter justice; unfortunately my words are not enough to express my feelings towards the subject and having a face-to-face meeting would benefit the cause greatly. Indeed, such a sensitive matter ought to only be discussed in person and I would only feel comfortable in doing just that.

If we could arrange a meeting so we can discuss this further I would be ever grateful. Of course, I understand that taking time out of your busy schedule may be difficult but I do hope that we can arrange something soon.

Thank you


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[REDACTED]

From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 01 September 2017 15:42
To: First Minister
Subject: Fwd: Message from Scottish Parliament website

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Govanhill Workspace
Unit 3, 69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot

All other enquiries to nicola.sturgeon@snp.org

From: noreply@parliament.scot <noreply@parliament.scot>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2017 3:35:57 PM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Subject: Message from Scottish Parliament website

name:
[REDACTED]

address:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

postcode:
[REDACTED]

email:
[REDACTED]

telephone:
[REDACTED]

message:
I would like to meet Nicola to discuss my personal issue. Thanks

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From: First Minister
Sent: 06 September 2017 08:27:14
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Applying to Scottish Universities.

MACCS for OR

Thanks

[Redacted]
Correspondence Secretary
Private Office to the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: [Redacted]
[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 05 September 2017 19:15
To: First Minister
Subject: Applying to Scottish Universities.

I am writing with regards to a Scottish place at University. I am a young Scottish student who has recently finished school. Regarding a phone call I made to UWS last week, I was told that "places were full for Scottish students and are only available for foregin candidates". I strongly believe that the course should be available for anyone who has an interest in the subject. Discrimination is the only word that can sum this up. If places are not filled by "foreign students" what happens to those spaces... the course will only run half full. Currently I don't have another option as there is nothing available to me at clearing and I am considering applying for full time jobs. At this current time, I have 6 National 5's, 6 Higher's and 1 Advanced Higher Qualification. I hope that from these qualifications it may see me into a place at a Scottish University.

Kind Regards, [Redacted]

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[Redacted]
[Redacted] S
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

11 October 2017

RECEIVED
18 OCT 2017

Public Engagemen.
17 OCT 2017
Receive

Dear Nicola Sturgeon,

I am writing this letter to you as I recently purchased the Sunday Post with the headline "GP crisis worst in 20 years"

I would like some advice. How do myself and my husband explain to our son, who has recently turned 18 and to whom we have always said do your best in everything you do and life will work out, why he can't get accepted into university to study medicine.

Through school he achieved 7 A's at National 5 level, 6 A's at Higher level and an A and a B at Advanced Higher level, so a total of 14 A's and a B, he scored above average in the UKCAT test, he was school captain in 6th year, giving up his free time to mentor 1st and 2nd year pupils who were struggling academically, he has achieved Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards and is almost signed off for the Gold award, He volunteered at the [Redacted], he went to Uganda for 2 weeks to help out a remote community, including helping in the medical center and he is an ambassador for the [Redacted]. He has had a passion from a very young age to become a doctor and he is a genuine, caring, loving and clever person.

Despite all this, he did not get a place at any of the Scottish Universities he applied for.

I would appreciate an explanation as to what the secret is to gaining a place at university to study medicine. Perhaps a change of nationality would get him in, after all more foreign students are offered a place than Scottish students. Or perhaps if I moved to a "deprived" postcode area, as the entry qualifications would be dramatically reduced.

As parents, we are extremely proud of what he has achieved so far, but we are now stumped as we have no other explanation to give him and as parents, I believe we have a duty to provide him with answers.

He now intends to go through the whole process again, but stands a real chance of wasting another year of his life without a path to follow.

Please can you advise what he needs to do to get into university in Scotland.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 February 2018 09:36:08
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Oxford/Bias/noting your interest

Attachments: oxfordPotentialBias.pdf

For MACCS please.

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney
MSP | Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary Education and Skills | Scottish
Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Ext [REDACTED]

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From: Swinney J (John), MSP [mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 16 February 2018 15:41
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: Fwd: Oxford/Bias/noting your interest

John Swinney
MSP for Perthshire North

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 11:00:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Oxford/Bias/noting your interest

[REDACTED] Ministers, [REDACTED]

You have all shown an interest in this topic in recent times, so I felt I had to share our experience (attached). In truth, we hold little hope of effecting any changes, but it's possible this example may assist you more generally. Since writing the attached letter, it has come to my attention that potentially more than one candidate has been accepted from the private school referenced. If so, I feel the statistical and quantitative evidence alone is fairly clear.

I hope you find the attached helpful, if I can elaborate on any points then please do contact me directly.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 August 2018 14:44:36
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Higher Education

For MACCS please

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney
MSP | Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary Education and Skills | Scottish
Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Ext [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2018 14:23
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: Higher Education

Dear Mr Swinney

I am contacting you regarding my son's recent experience with the clearing system in Scotland.

I am largely happy with the education system in Scotland having 3 boys who are all benefitting from it. Unfortunately this week has been pretty disappointing for us though.

My son finished 6th year this year with a hope of going on to study Medicine. He disappointingly did not meet his conditions for the University of Glasgow or Edinburgh University, which was a blow in itself. However, we hoped with the grades he had he would be able to acquire a place on another course through the clearing system.

He did not receive a formal rejection from Glasgow until 5.57pm on Tuesday by which time any courses he was interested in had gone. (I got further information when I contacted admissions and discovered the Glasgow University system had crashed thus the late reply.) We contacted Glasgow university but they could offer no help as all of the funded places had gone. On contacting Strathclyde University they had no courses at all for Scottish students. Much to our surprise though some suitable courses are available to other UK residents and overseas students. This may be the price we pay for free higher education but I do find it frustrating that with my son's grades he cannot acquire university education this year. He incidently had to reject an unconditional offer for Maths at Glasgow as he got 2 offers for Medicine which he chose as his first and second choices.

He will now have to take a year out, find a job and reapply next year. I am sure we are not the only family in this situation and feel that free higher education for all in Scotland is not as available as I had hoped. I have a couple of queries, I wonder if you could help with, what is the percentage of places available to Scottish students and if a student drops out of university what happens to that funding?

Thank you for your time and I do hope to hear from you soon

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2018 14:59:52
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] - University Complaint

For MACCS please

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney
MSP | Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary Education and Skills | Scottish
Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Ext [REDACTED]

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From: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 04 September 2018 08:52
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: [REDACTED] - University Complaint

John Swinney
MSP for Perthshire North

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 3, 2018 5:55:14 PM
To: Swinney J (John), MSP
Subject: [REDACTED] - University Complaint

The following is an email I have sent to UCAS and Edinburgh Napier about my difficulty applying for University in 2018 as I have been advised it may be of interest to you

' To whom it may concern,
I have had a rather difficult experience trying to apply for college for September 2018. I understand UCAS has an application process designed for the ease of domestic and international students as well as those of both categories who've come from inopportune backgrounds and/or experience learning difficulties. I was born in the Western Isles of Scotland and lived in Argyll until I moved to Australia when I was 11 years old with my family and graduated from an Australian high school. It was clear to me after graduation that the standard of education in Scotland for the courses I was interested in outmatched their Australian counterparts. I applied to a conservatoire earlier this year and was told that I would be considered as an international student so I would have to apply through that system. I then followed suit when applying for undergraduate courses i.e. applied by the international deadline, and was told that I would have to be in the country by August 1st, which I pulled all my resources together to pull off including only coming back with my mother and leaving my father and sister behind. It was then brought to my attention

by UCAS that the conservatoire had misinformed me and I would actually be accepted as a domestic student. From that, all of my applications were withdrawn by UCAS as I had applied past the domestic deadline and had no opportunity for alternative entry into any of these courses.

I was willing to wait another year until I found out in August about Clearing (not existent in Australia), where I could apply for courses with vacancies. On the UCAS Clearing website it listed a vacancy in Edinburgh Napier for 'Languages and intercultural communication' a course I am very keen for. I got in touch with Edinburgh Napier Clearing and after a while it became clear to me that there wasn't a vacancy and it had been mistakenly advertised by UCAS and that the person I was speaking with wasn't interested in helping me unless it was to tell me that the course wasn't available. I once again had no opportunity to get access to this course. This email chain is available if requested.

I then found out the course was available for 'Widening Participation Students', a scheme designed to help those from inopportune backgrounds as mentioned above. Part of this scheme is to "increase students from under-represented groups" and "Play a lead role in the national conversation on widening participation". I haven't yet had the opportunity to be considered for any course I've applied for or shown a keen interest in. I am currently living with an unemployed mother who is a social worker and off of my grandmother's pension and I'm now living in her household because I knew the educational standard in Scotland was worth the sacrifices. I then asked the employee at Edinburgh Napier if the number of 'Widening participation students' was part of the number of availabilities or if room was made for those whom were part of the scheme. The question was dodged but after I hinted I might be part of the scheme he asked me to fill out a form which shouldn't have been made available to me if I wasn't going to be considered. The form had no flexibility in it for me to write my predicament like I have here and I was again given no opportunity to apply for this course.

It is a good thing that these kind of rules and schemes exist. Allowing young people from difficult backgrounds to have a greater chance at securing a future they may never have had is a humbling system to have in place. Seeing as Edinburgh Napier want to be part of the national conversation on widening participation I would be grateful to have that participation widened to people in similar predicaments as me and have kept trying to move forward and take chances in circumstances that seem in ill-favour.

Consideration for a place in this course would be much appreciated. '

Thank you for reading.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted Name]

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 August 2018 14:39:45
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Assistance with university placement

For MACCS please

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney
MSP | Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary Education and Skills | Scottish
Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Ext [REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2018 13:12
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: Assistance with university placement

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2018 13:12
To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Assistance with university placement

Hi John

I live in Edinburgh , I am wondering if you can help me make a complaint about university offers for Scottish students.

My daughter, who has obtained 2 A?s in advanced higher and 6 A?s at higher, having met all the conditions for St Andrews university has been rejected.

I believe this the be a clear case of positive discrimination due to more financing to the university from students outwith Scotland.

I look forward to hearing from you as I feel this needs to be addressed as a clear case of inequality.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

*

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scope.

Email sent by [REDACTED] to the First Minister, 22nd April
I am writing to you today feeling very let down with the system. My son has applied to a number of universities in Scotland as we live in Edinburgh he applied as his first choice being Edinburgh, followed by Glasgow then Aberdeen and Dundee to study Law.
He attained [REDACTED] is on track to gain a further [REDACTED] at Advanced Higher and [REDACTED] at Higher level. HE has worked very hard, has played [REDACTED] for his country and also played [REDACTED] Scotland [REDACTED] and also just captained the team this year. He got a rejection from Edinburgh (no conditional just rejection) we were

extremely shocked by this as he had the grades for entry. His guidance teacher was shocked too. We asked for feedback and were told that only 60 place (YES 60) go to Scottish applicants, you were all for Scottish pupils to attend University but how can they when they are limited to these number of places. You don't tell us that do you? So out of 1800 places only 60 go to Scottish pupils this is totally unacceptable. We were also told that as there was such a great demand on pupils with 5 As were given places well we know of a number of pupils who attained less and got unconditional places.

Again we asked for feedback and got told that it was their postcode again these pupils don't come from deprived areas. I have again to get back to the Univeristy.

My son attends [redacted] again obviously penalised for this. We do not fit the criteria for public school my husband and I did not attend university. My son is the first. Also our postcode does fit into a deprived area. We have had to sacrifice moving house, going on holiday so that we could give my son a better chance of an education but obviously this has been to his disadvantage. Again very unfair.

I would like a reply and maybe some insight as to what I can try and do to help my son, who you can imagine is very disappointed.

Looking forward to your reply

[redacted]

•

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

•

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Out
of
Scope.

[Redacted content]

Out of Scope.

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The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland

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From: First Minister
Sent: 22 March 2018 13:53:46
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Scottish Students

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 March 2018 13:50
To: First Minister
Subject: Scottish Students

Dear Ms Sturgeon,
Here is a copy of an email that I have just sent to St Andrews University after my son has been rejected from both of his course choices. I hope you will take the time to read through it and send me your thoughts. If you applied to St Andrews today it is unlikely that you would be accepted due to being Scottish.

Dear [REDACTED]
It appears that my son is deemed good enough with his 4 Higher A grades and 1 C grade passes to be accepted onto the Glasgow University, Edinburgh University and Heriot Watt University French and Spanish Degree courses, but is not good enough to be offered a place at St Andrews University. Your university is his nearest University, in a town that he is very familiar with having lived in [REDACTED] his whole life.
He has been a model pupil at the [REDACTED] for 6 years and would have received glowing references from any of his teachers if St Andrews actually requested them. He was deemed responsible enough by the staff there to become a Senior Prefect and House Captain. He has taken part in CCF activities for 6 years whilst at school reaching the rank of Corporal and he has obtained Duke of Edinburgh awards. He was nominated by the staff at [REDACTED] to spend his Summer as a student leader at the [REDACTED] last Summer. He had work experience in teaching French and German to primary school pupils last year and received such a glowing report from his teacher mentor that he was taken aside and congratulated personally by the Rector of [REDACTED].
So I ask you, [REDACTED] what exactly has he not done to be offered a place on your languages course? Is it because he is a bit too Scottish perhaps?

St Andrews University has turned into an Anglo - American finishing school and it's just not fair. All these hundreds of years old traditions that the University still respects are being carried out by American and Chinese students...not Scottish ones! What a joke that is...but an unfunny one.

I know that communicating with you is probably futile and I am sure that my son [REDACTED] is going to flourish at Edinburgh University studying French and Spanish, but other than being Scottish and privately educated, I cannot see a reason why you have rejected him.

I am now going to make several freedom of information requests from St Andrews University in order to obtain specific information regarding the number of Scottish students being offered a place at this Scottish University, both generally and more specifically in the languages department. I will then approach every major newspaper in Scotland with this information and I know they will run articles to highlight this travesty. The whole town is full of international students. Is there a University in America or perhaps China that you could recommend that my son applies to that is full of Scottish students?

This whole situation is shockingly unfair and unjust. When did St Andrews become a business? When did money become a factor in whether you were accepted to study there? Why are Scottish taxpayers paying for International students to study in our country. Students that will use this tax payer funded University education to create a skilled workforce back in their own country and not in Scotland? Why on Earth do you have Charitable status in Scotland?

It is now my intention to highlight this injustice in the national and local press. Scottish students applying for a Scottish taxpayer funded Scottish University and being turned down in favour of foreign students.

This is not education anymore Professor. This is all about money and that is so wrong.

Thank You
[REDACTED]

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