

The First and deputy First Ministers  
Arlene Foster MLA and Michelle O'Neill MLA  
Stormont Castle  
Stormont  
Belfast BT4



20 April 2020

**Ref: Graduate Entry Medical School at Magee**

Dear First and deputy First Minister,

I am writing to ask for your support in bringing forward a decision on the Graduate Entry Medical School at Ulster University, Magee campus.

The commitment to the Medical School is underlined in the New Decade New Approach deal and is a core policy commitment of the Executive.

I understand that a business case is being put together by the Department of Health and would urge your support in helping this business case bring forward a positive decision.

The importance of this project being committed to and delivered is more apparent now that our medics and other healthcare workers fight to protect us against Covid-19.

In addition to bolstering out health and social care workforce, the proposed medical school is also recognised as having the potential to boost our local economy and has been identified as one of the core capital projects in a City Deal for Derry.

In February 2020, in answer to an Assembly question by Sinead McLaughlin MLA, the Health Minister stated that progress was being made on a business case for the Medical School. I note that a deadline for this decision is fast approaching and am keen that this decision is taken swiftly to ensure the Medical School can open in September 2021.

The Chamber is calling on the Executive to help ensure its commitment to a Graduate Entry Medical School will be carried out as soon as possible.

I am acutely aware of the huge efforts being undertaken by staff right across health and social care in the fight against Covid-19 and am grateful to them. I hope that a Graduate Entry Medical School delivered in the North West will serve as a fitting legacy to the efforts of our frontline healthcare staff.

Yours faithfully,

Redmond McFadden

President, Londonderry Chamber of Commerce

