

The Minister for Health
Robin Swann MLA
Department of Health
Castle Buildings
Stormont



20 April 2020

Ref: Graduate Entry Medical School at Magee

Dear Minister Swann,

I am writing to you to ask for a positive and swift decision in bringing forward the Graduate Entry Medical School at Ulster University, Magee campus.

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

I understand that a business case is being put together by your Department and would urge immediate action in bringing forward a positive decision on this as soon as possible.

The importance of this project is more apparent now as our medics and other healthcare workers fight to protect us against Covid-19. Now more than ever, we see how important it is to invest in our health and social care workforce right across Northern Ireland.

In addition to addressing workforce shortages, the proposed medical school is also recognised as having the potential to boost our local economy and attract other inward investment to the region from the likes of healthcare and medical technology companies.

In February 2020, you stated that progress was being made on a business case for the Medical School. I note that the deadline for this decision is now fast approaching and am keen that it is taken soon, so that the Medical School can open in September 2021.

I am acutely aware of the huge efforts being undertaken by your Department and staff right across health and social care in the fight against Covid-19 and am grateful to all of you. 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