

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Chair, Finance
Committee

Buffy Williams MS, Chair, Children, Young People
and Education Committee

Paul Davies MS, Chair, Economy, Trade and Rural
Affairs Committee

16 October 2024

Dear Committee Chairs,

Petition P-06-1403 Reconsider cuts to Postgraduate funding and increase Doctoral Loans to match UKRI Stipend

The Petitions Committee met on the 16 September to consider the above petition, submitted by Micaela Panes.

In correspondence sent to the Petitions Committee, the petitioner stated that she did not believe that the Minister of Education at the time had thoroughly explored the impact of cutting postgraduate grants and bursaries and that as a result of the cuts, under-represented students would miss out on opportunities for education. She indicated that there had been an increase in the number of home students choosing not to undertake postgraduate degrees due to a lack of financial support, citing a Russell Group Students Union survey¹.

We would like to highlight the concerns raised in advance of Committee scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2025-26.

The full details of the Committee's consideration of the petition, including the correspondence and the actions agreed by the Committee can be found here:

¹ <https://russellgroupstudentsunions.org/cost-of-living-report>

<https://business.senedd.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=42854#:~:text=With%20the%20current%20cost-of-living%20crisis,%20the%20decline%20in>

I would be grateful if you could send any response by e-mail to the clerking team at petitions@senedd.wales.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.