



2022-0009443MDPO

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP

Minister of State for Higher and Further Education

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Louise McLornan
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Your ref: LM 01.02.2022

22 March 2022

Dear Mrs McLornan,

Thank you for your letter of 10 February, addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, about higher education (HE) funding in Northern Ireland. I am replying as the Minister for Higher and Further Education.

It may be helpful if I explain that HE funding is a devolved matter. Devolution in the UK has created the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly. It also created the Devolved Administrations (DAs). This process transferred varying levels of power from the UK parliament to those institutions. Therefore, whilst I appreciate you sharing your concerns with us, I am afraid this issue is not something that I can comment on.

I note from your correspondence that you were intending to write to the economy and finance ministers at the Northern Ireland Executive, and I trust you will receive suitable replies from them.

I am sorry that I cannot assist you further in this instance.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP
Minister of State for Higher and Further Education