

Department for Innovation
Universities and Skills

Mr Alex Kemp
National Union of Students
2nd Floor
Centro 3
19 Mandela Street
London
NW1 0DU

Bill Rammell MP
MINISTER OF STATE

5 July 2007

Dear Alex

Following our meeting on 2 November 2006 to discuss concerns about support for disabled students, I promised to write to you after we had considered issues raised at a subsequent meeting at official level with the Chief Executive of the Snowdon Award Scheme.

I am pleased that I can now give you some good news. After careful deliberation of the funding priorities within higher education, we have decided that from 2008/09 the maximum amounts of Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) for non-medical helpers and for postgraduates should be increased significantly.

From 2008/09 the maximum amount of the DSA for non-medical helpers will increase to £20,000 for full-time students and £15,000 for part-time students. The maximum amount of the DSA for postgraduate students will increase to £10,000. These represent increases in the region of 60% compared with figures originally planned for 2008/09.

After my discussions with you, and consideration of the 2006 Snowdon Survey, we identified that increasing the maximum amounts of these two DSAs would have the most positive impact on disabled students and would represent the best use of available resources. These increases will make a very real difference to the most severely disabled students who will have more access to the support they need for their studies.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Executives of the Snowdon Award Scheme and SKILL.

Yours sincerely



BILL RAMMELL MP

Department for Innovation,
Universities & Skills

Sanctuary Buildings

Great Smith Street

Westminster

London SW1P 3BT

DIRECT LINE 0870 0012345